Gambling Apocalypse

Kaiji

3

Nobuyuki Fukumoto

Chapter:24 Catalyst

Chapter:25 The Surge

Chapter:26 Ready to Die

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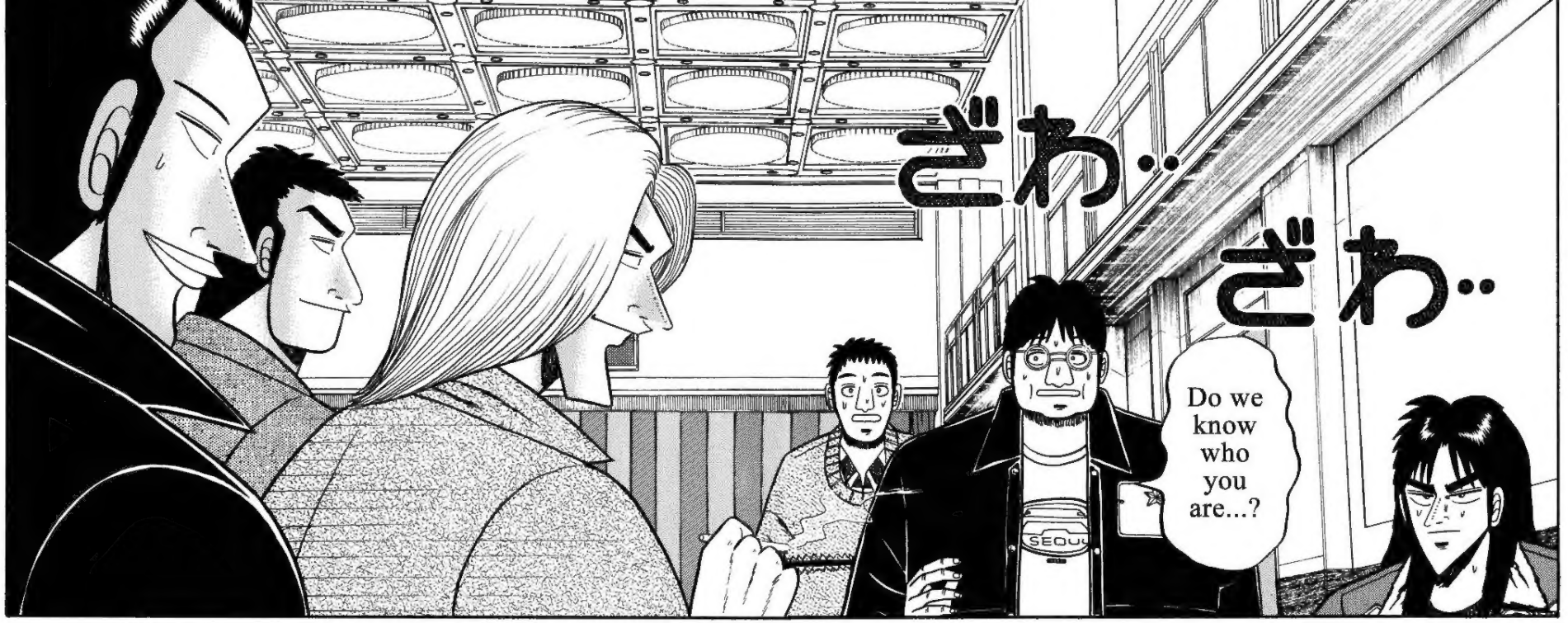
Janken(Rock-Paper-Scissors)rules

Paper wins a stone.

Stone wins scissors.

Scissors win paper.

Chapter 24: Catalyst


ざわ…
ざわ…
Do we know who you are...?

Huh ...?
It was all planned out...

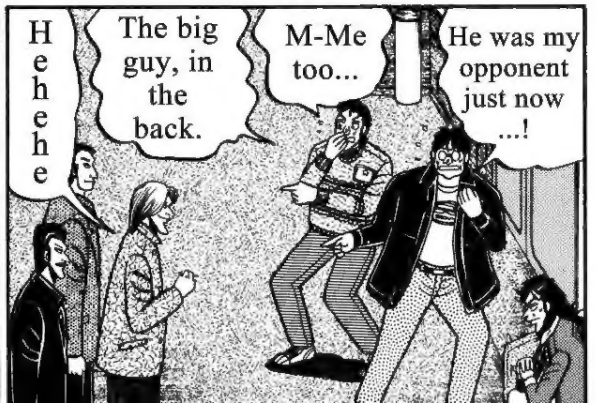
That must mean ...
Furuhata and Ando didn't just lose by chance.

You see ...
They were playing us...
...once the scissors started plummeting they were counting on us...
...to make our move.
Since we had bought up all the rock cards...

That guy in the back ...
Ahh ...!
GASP
What in the world are you talking about...?

.....

Of course ...


Hehehe
The big guy, in the back.
M-Me too...
He was my opponent just now ...!

These guys...
...are the ones who were buying up paper !
SEOUL
Huh ...?
Hehehe
So you're the ringleader after all...
You've got a sharp eye...
When you started off, scissors cards...
....were at the highest. Buying up rocks to take the scissors...
...was a pretty interesting move...
Rock
Scissors
Paper
After all ...
Your plan wasn't half bad.
...and you're pretty bright.

...and all your prayers have been answered.
Your strategy would have been a success...
...those cards would have given you an easy win.
If all had gone according to plan...
Rock
Scissors
Paper

Sure, you were optimistic ...
It was spot on.
: Hehehe
.....

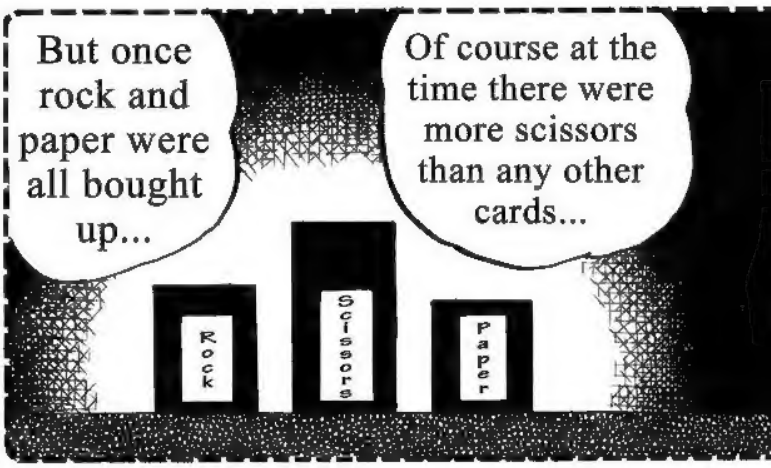
The truth is, we were thinking of the same strategy.
...but who can blame you?

...we couldn't help noticing that someone else was already out on the floor, buying up rocks.
...as soon as we started...
The funny thing is...
In fact, we were ready to put it into action.

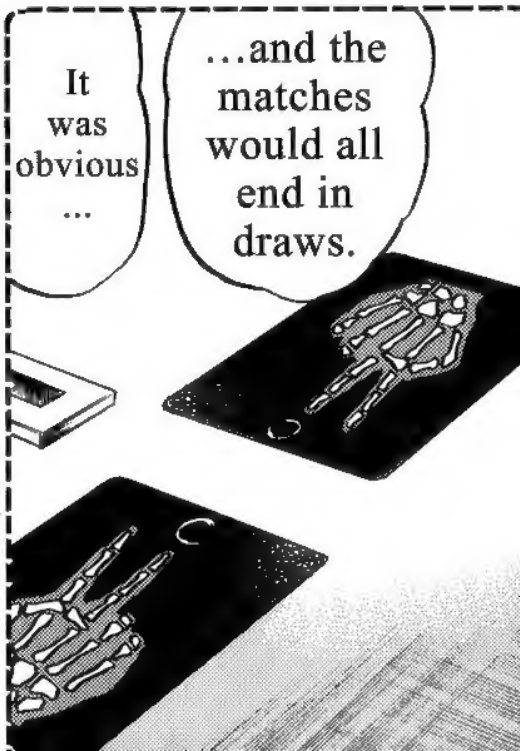
...and started buying up paper.
We forgot about rock...

...and did it in a hurry.
So we changed out plans ...
.....

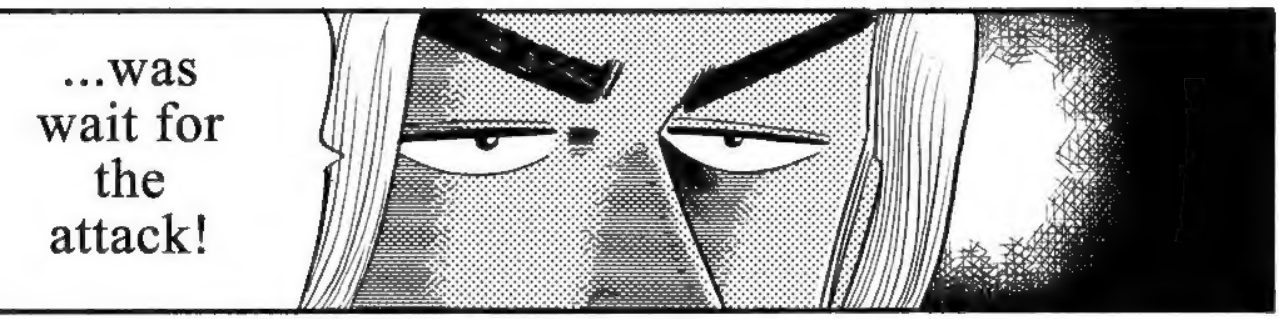
The only cards in play would be scissors ...
... no one would be able to play them.

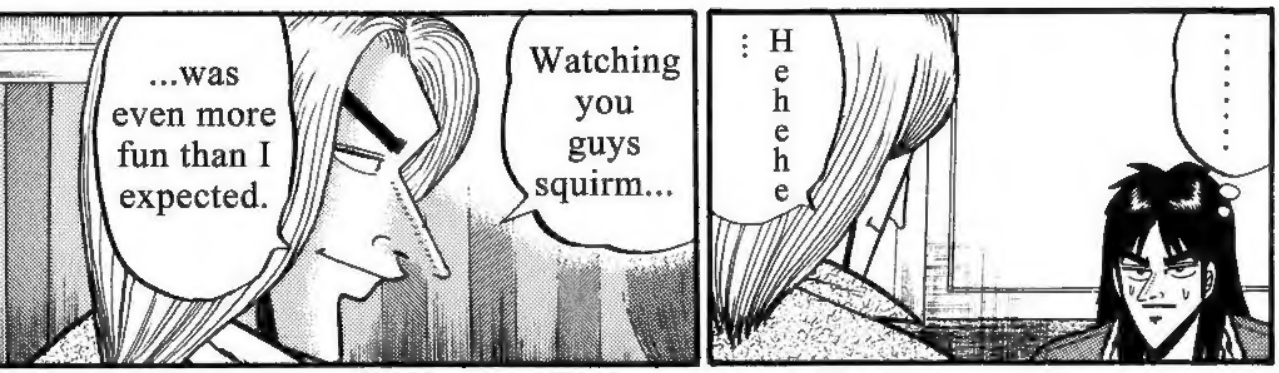

But once rock and paper were all bought up...
Of course at the time there were more scissors than any other cards...
Rock
Scissors
Paper

...would make their appearance, looking pale and scared.
As long as we kept our eyes peeled we knew the other group...


It was obvious ...
...and the matches would all end in draws.

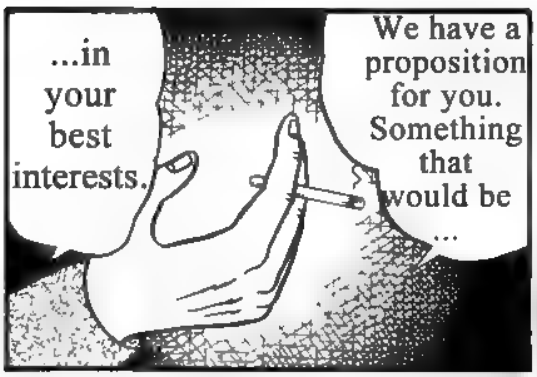
All we needed to do ...
...while scissors were still in play.
...and they would try and take some stars ...
...we knew panic would hit ...
Once the shock set in...

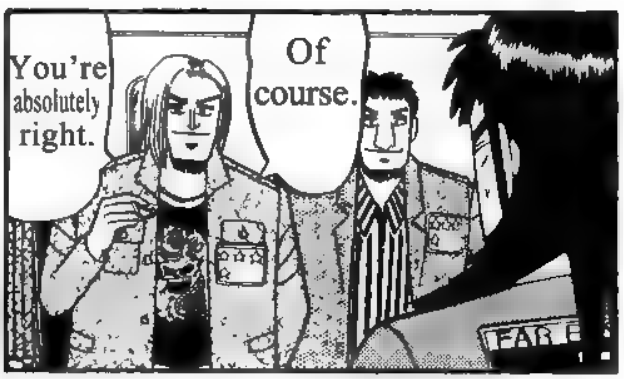

...was wait for the attack!


...was even more fun than I expected.
Watching you guys squirm...
Hehehe
.....

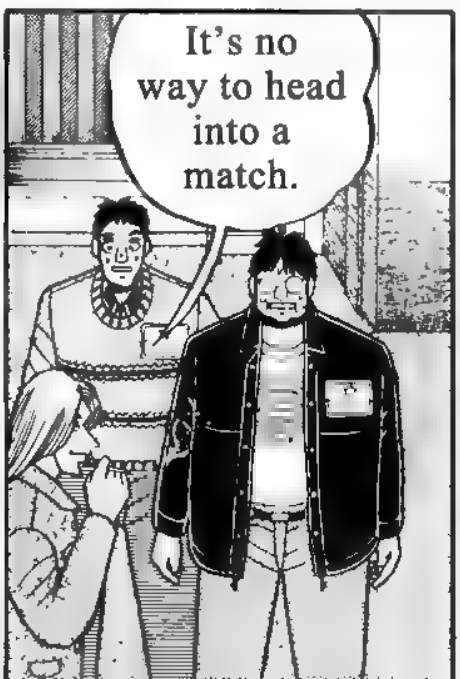
What do you want ...?
.....
If you guys hadn't been so dim-witted and careless...
Thank you.

Hehehe
...just to brag and get sarcastic.
I know you didn't come over here...


...in your best interests.
We have a proposition for you. Something that would be ...


You're absolutely right.
Of course.

So instead ...

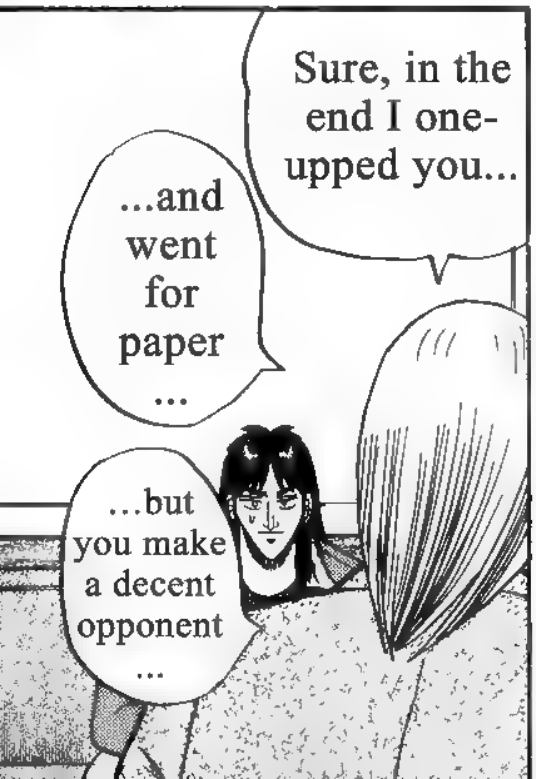

It's no way to head into a match.

...the three of you are lined up for the slaughter.
With only 1 star each ...

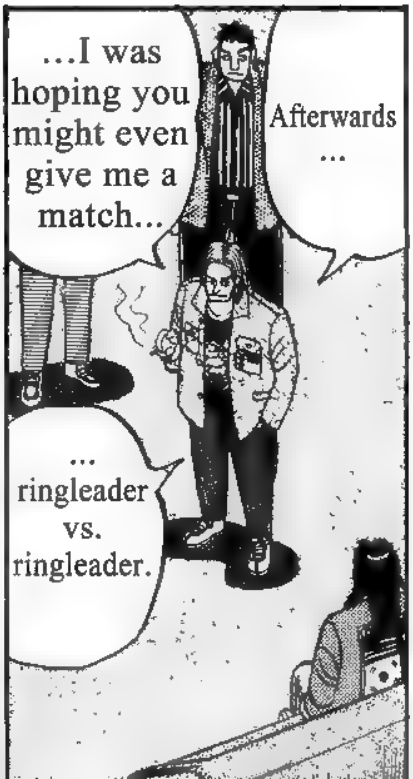
The three of us are willing to sell you a star ...!

Not bad, eh?
Heh ...

Huh ...?

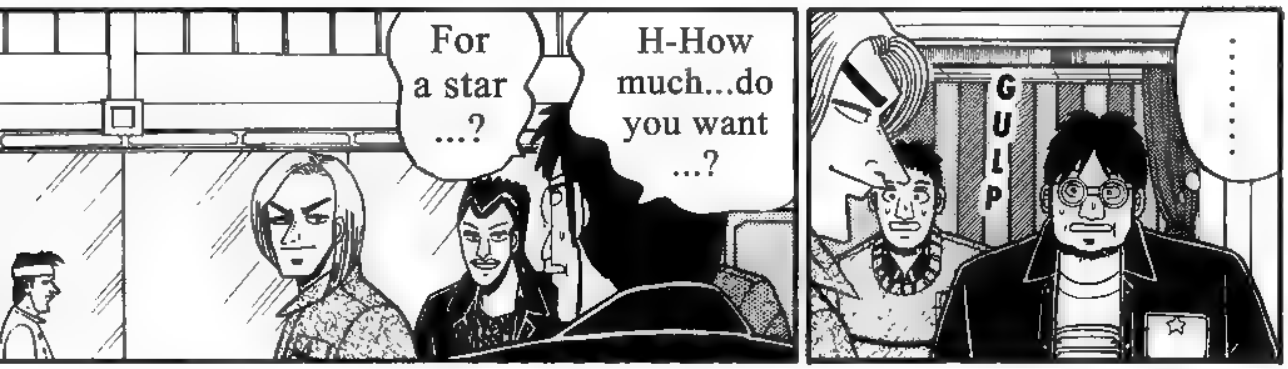

Sure, in the end I one-upped you...
...and went for paper ...
...but you make a decent opponent ...

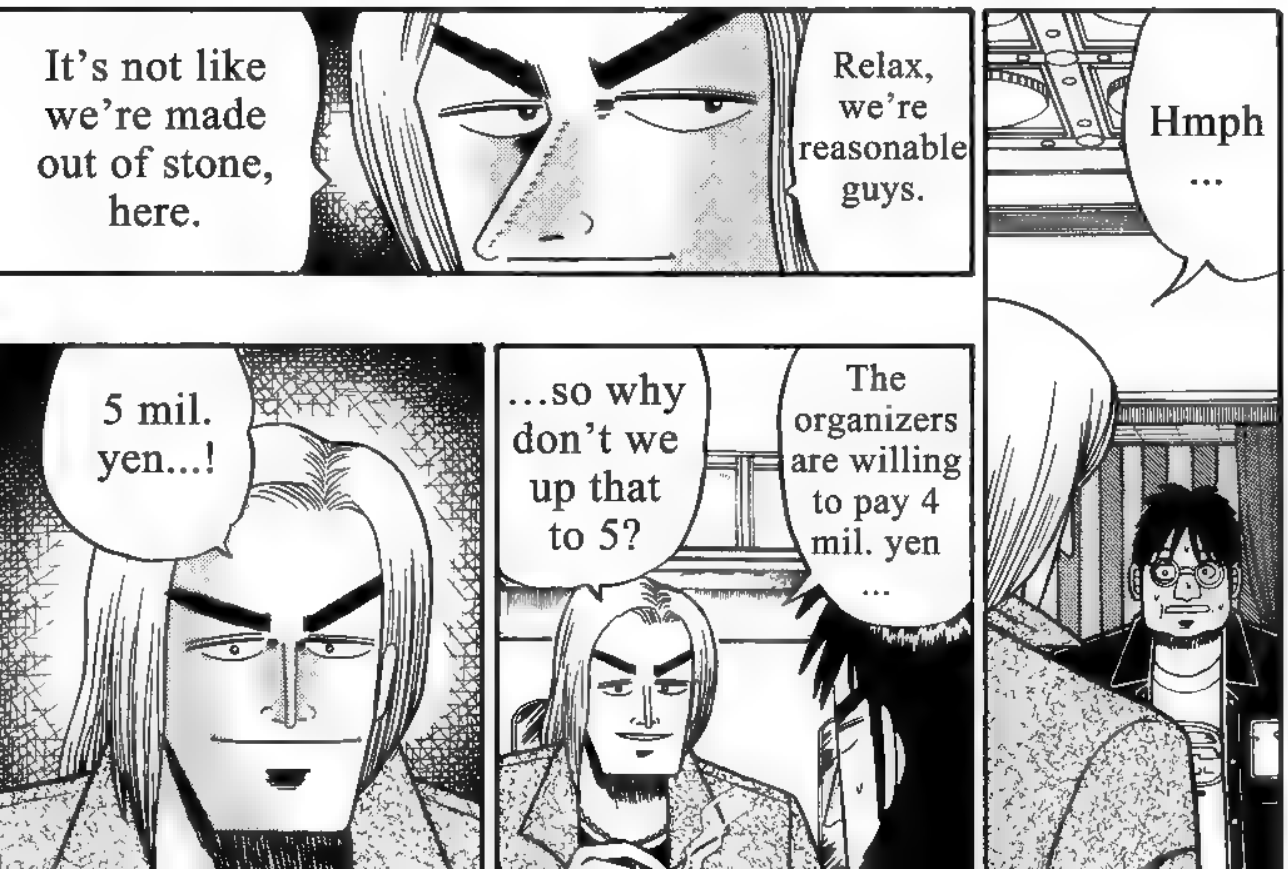
After all, the two of us thought up the same exact same plan.
We're like two of a kind.

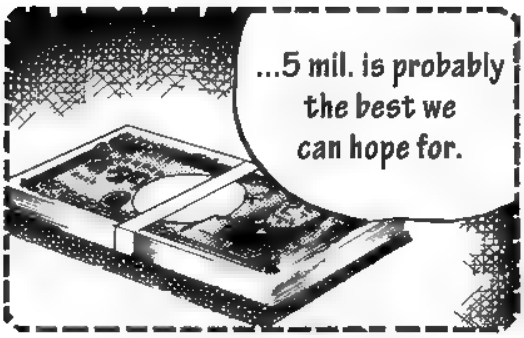

...I was hoping you might even give me a match...
Afterwards ...
... ringleader vs. ringleader.

... against you?
After all, what could be more fitting than playing our final match ...
I guess you could call it friendly rivalry.
...that you'd make a worthy adversary.
I can't help feeling ...
That's right ...
Your final match ...?
After that match I'm done.
But I'm no fool.
It's enough ...
They're all a bunch of hopeless fools ...
In the end, their own greed is their downfall ...
It's pathetic.
There's no reason for us to get carried away.
Enough is enough ...
Most people don't know when to quit. They let themselves get carried way...

So you know what I'm talking about...
.....
You guys were planning ...the same thing, right?
We'll take care of the rest of our cards by playing draws.
Whether I win or lose, we head upstairs.


For a star ...?
H-How much...do you want ...?
GULP
.....


It's not like we're made out of stone, here.
Relax, we're reasonable guys.
Hmph ...
5 mil. yen...!
...so why don't we up that to 5?
The organizers are willing to pay 4 mil. yen ...



*G STANDS FOR "GU (ROCK)," C FOR "CHOKI (SCISSORS)" AND P FOR "PA (PAPER)."

...but how much time would we waste trying to find him?
Sure, maybe we could find someone willing to sell for 4.5...*
We're out of time here...
G C P

We'd have to be stupid to take that offer.
No deal...!

Think ...
Why ...?
K-Kaiji-san ...!
Huh ...?

...so there's no reason not to buy 1!
Furuhata
We'll never buy 2 stars with that...
...we only have 6 mil. left.
... how can we risk another match.
First of all...
If we don't buy that star...

6 mil. might be enough to buy 2 stars.
Huh ...?
Huuuh ...?

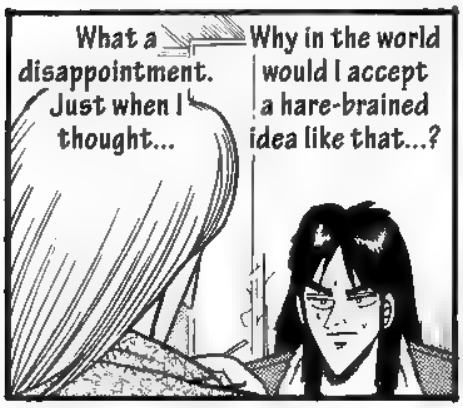
...until there are 10, 20 minutes left...
Say we let the time run down ...
It's impossible ...
The organizers are already paying 4 mil. a pop.
But ...

...if we also offered ...
...someone might be willing to part with their 2 extra stars for 6 mil...
In that predicament ...
...and there's somebody with 5 stars and 5 or 6 cards left.

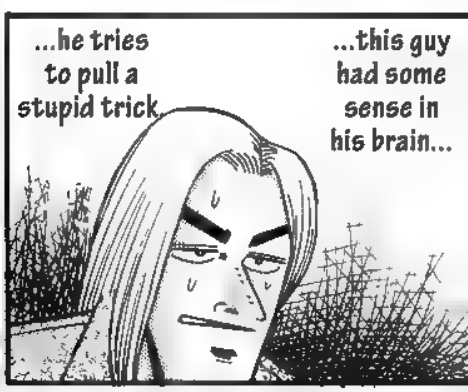
...then he can avoid the risk...
If we take those cards off his hands ...
...plus net an extra 6 mil. Not too shabby...
...if those cards led him down a bad losing streak...
From his point of view ...
...he could wind up losing all his stars.
...to take their extra cards off their hands.
Eh ...
Hehehe :
Kaiji -san ...
There's no reason to just throw our money away like this.
There's a good chance that will happen...
Wait ...!
Later ...
See you on land...
Well then, do what you like.
I see. I see.
It's no skin off our backs.

Huh ...?
I'm willing to accept your other proposal.
Kaiji-san...
B-But ...
...but I'll play you for it.
I won't buy your star...
Can't you see we're at our rope's end here!?
If that happens I'll just have to man up and face it...!
It's too late now to worry about my immediate safety.
What will happen if you lose ...!?
Quiet ...!

...at least, in the end, I lost in a match to the leader of...
...the other group.
It will still be a comfort to know that, after our own buying plan failed...
Even supposing I do lose...
But ...
Very interesting ...
Hehehe
It would be a fitting end...
Just like he said...
Huh ...?
...let's make it a death match!
Whoever runs out first heads to the other room...
A death match...!
We keep playing against each other until 1 of us is entirely out of stars.
None of these cutesy games where we play one match and quit.
No.

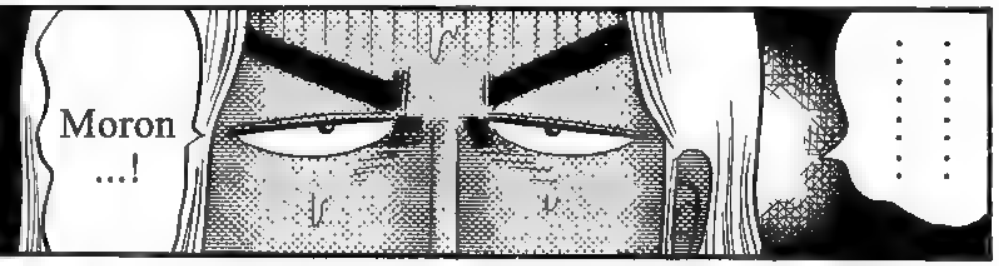


Tsk ...!

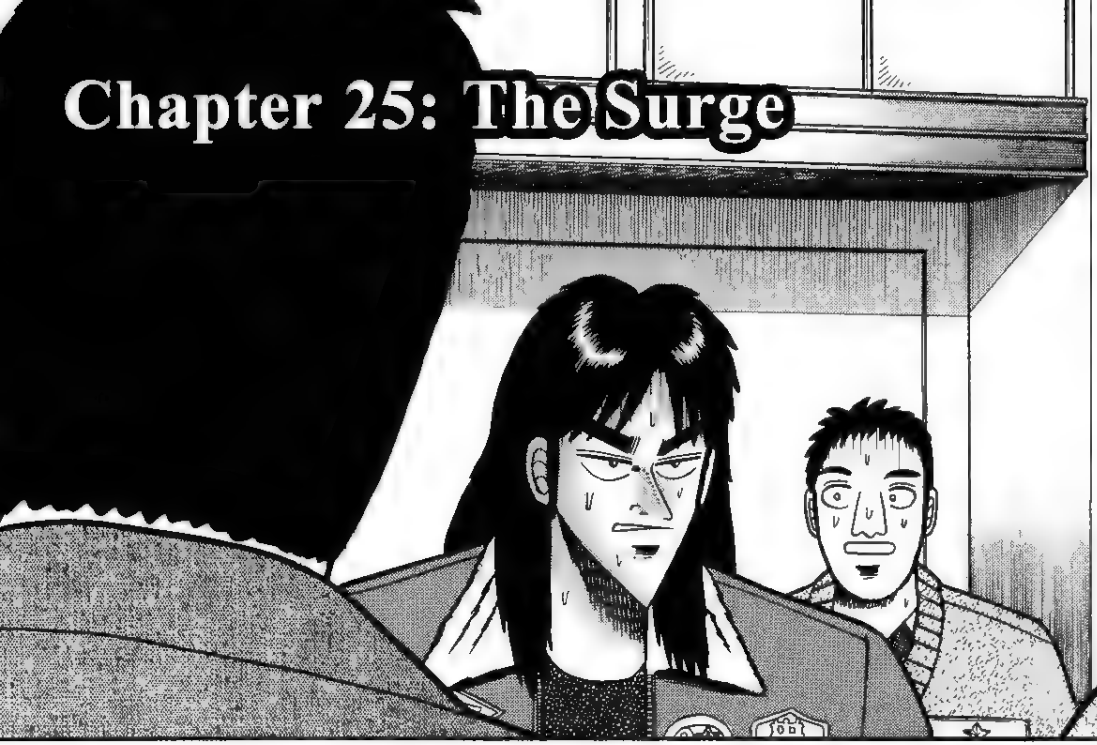


End of Chapter 24

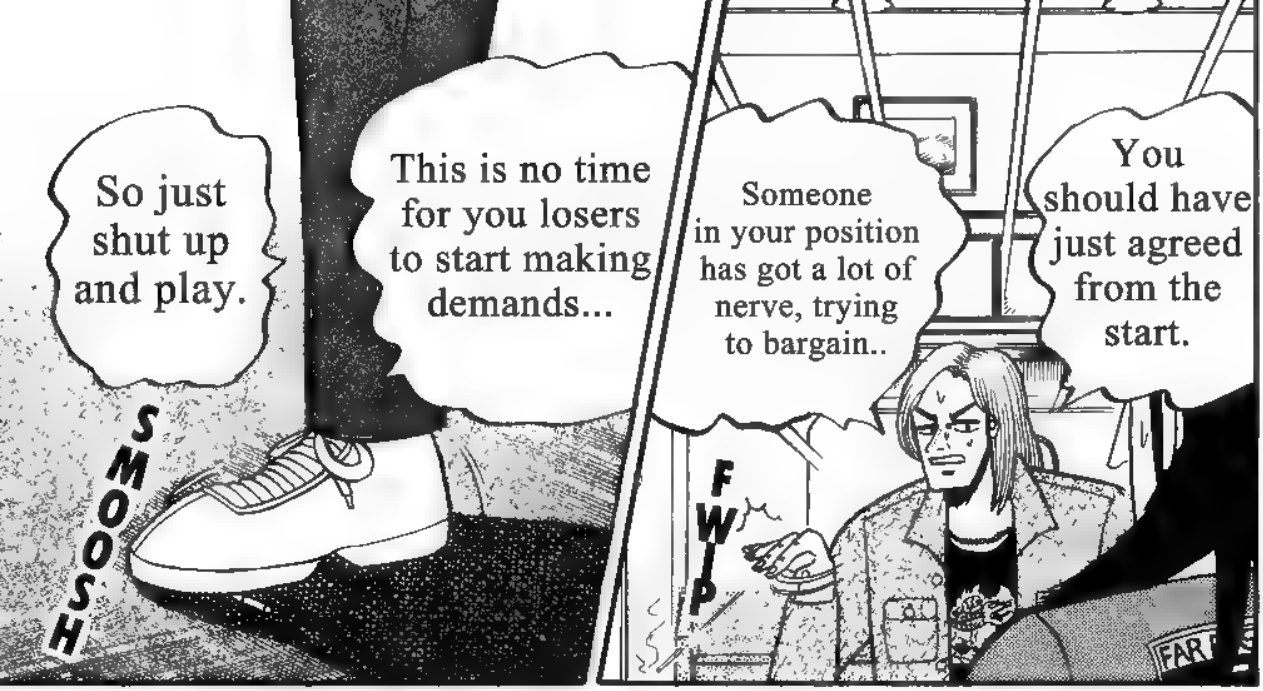
Let's play until one of us is entirely defeated!!
A death match!

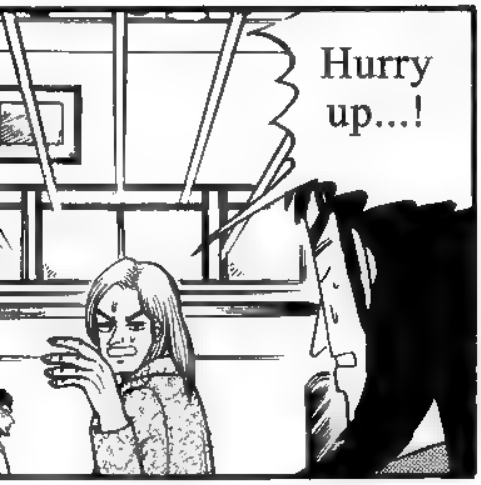


Chapter 25: The Surge



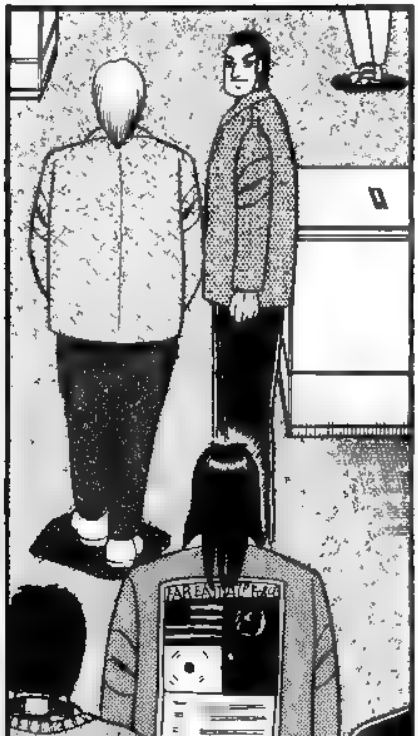
Get a hold of yourself!
Seriously !
Two matches... Just give me two matches...
Forget about a death match ...
Ngh ...
Now knock it off!
...One match!
Read my lips. I said...
Just one match ...
One match then.
Alright, already ...
Alright ...
...pain in the neck.
.....
.....


So just shut up and play.
SMOOSH
This is no time for you losers to start making demands...
Someone in your position has got a lot of nerve, trying to bargain..
FWIP
You should have just agreed from the start.

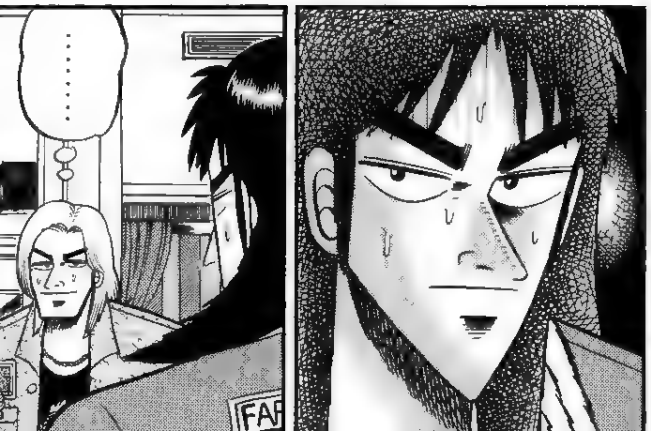

Hurry up...!

You freaks ...!
Who cares if you win or lose?

.....
Kaiji - san ...

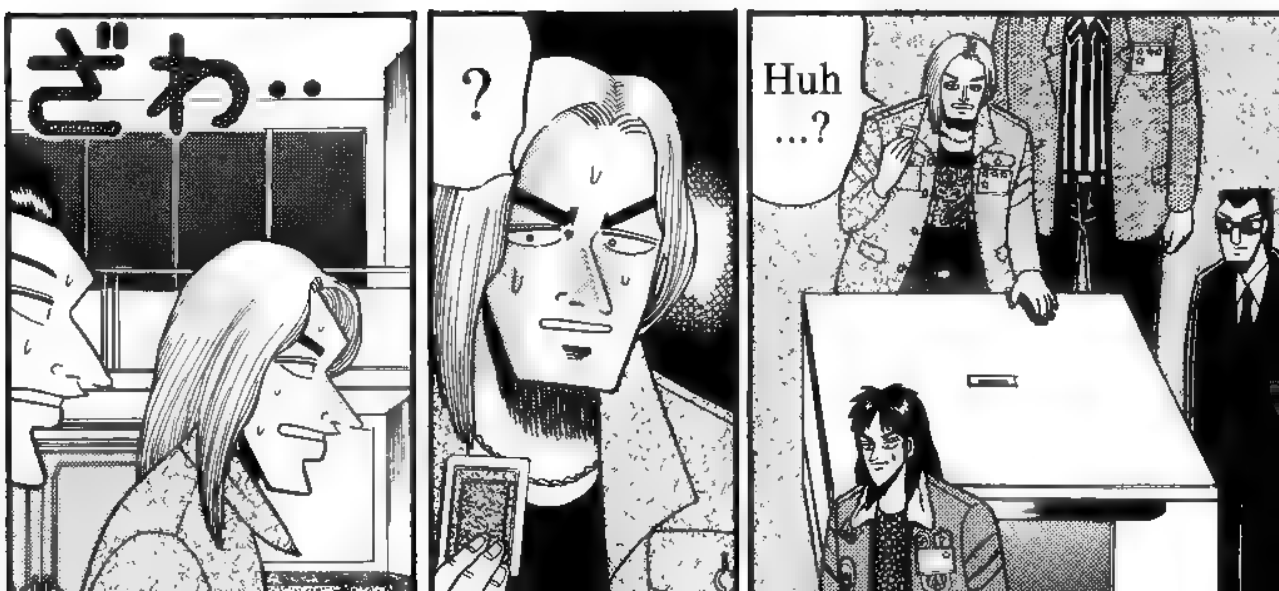


The decisive battle!! Kaiji vs. Kitami!



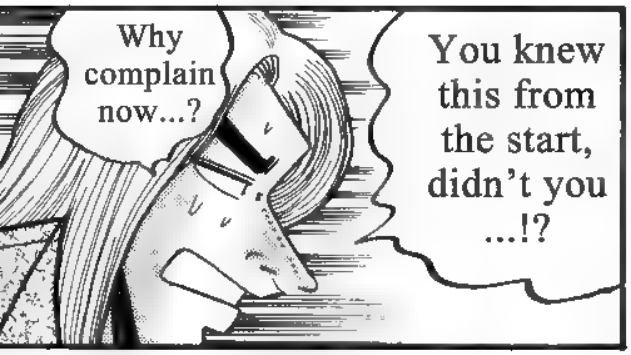
Ok, Kaiji...
Are you ready ...!?

SWOOSH
On our marks ...


ざわ..
?
Huh ...?

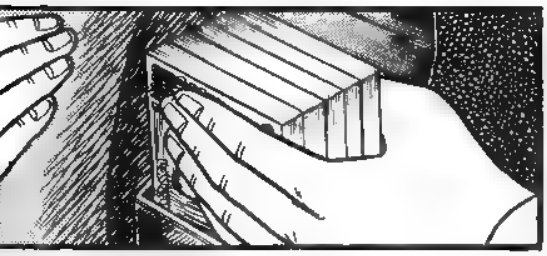
ざわ..ざわ..
... Kaiji -san?

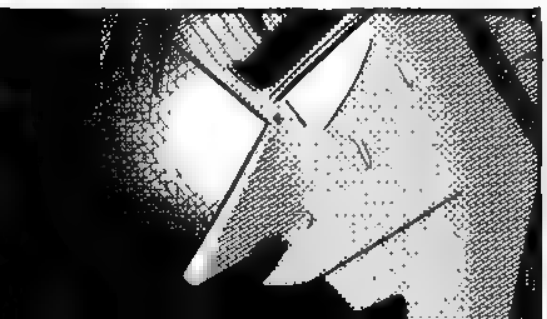
What's your point...?
What ...


Why complain now...?
You knew this from the start, didn't you ...!?

...if I should lose that's the end for me.
Huh ...?

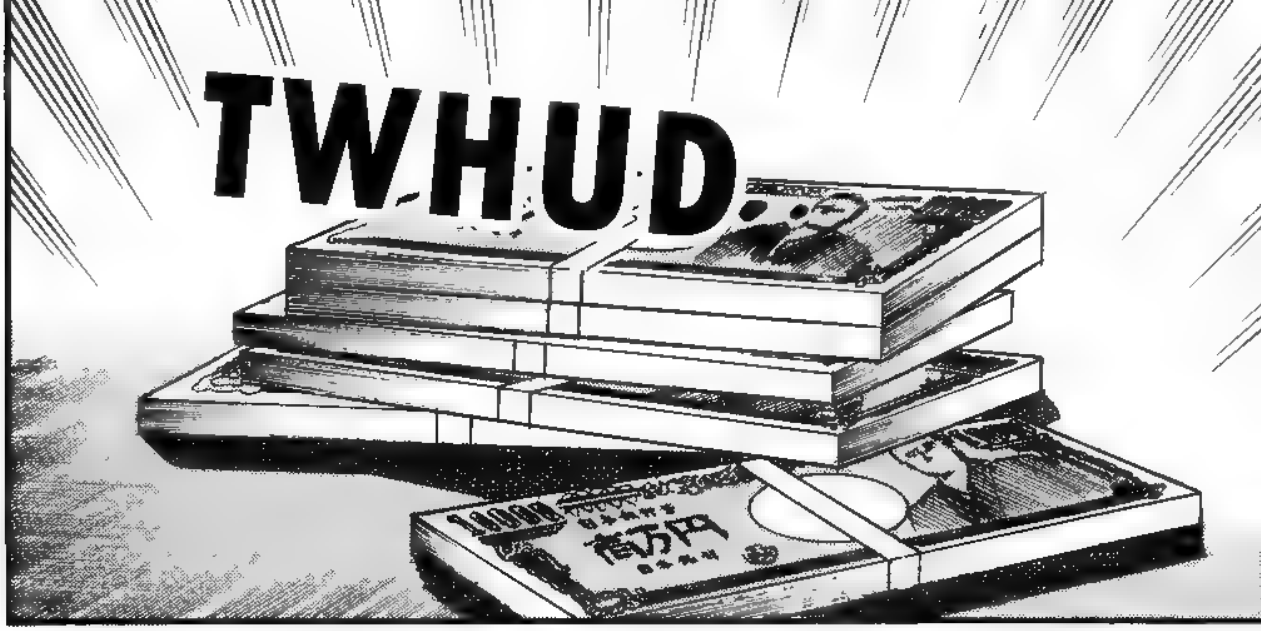
Hey ...
What are you doing ...?
Now that I think about it...



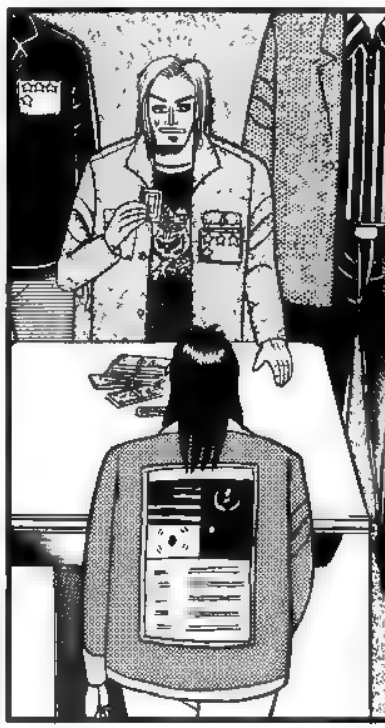


It's not that...
CHACK

No ...
Are you getting cold feet ...!?


TWHUD...

You see ...
Huh ...?



It's my last match.
See, if I lose, I have to go into the other room...
It would be a shame to let all this money go to waste.

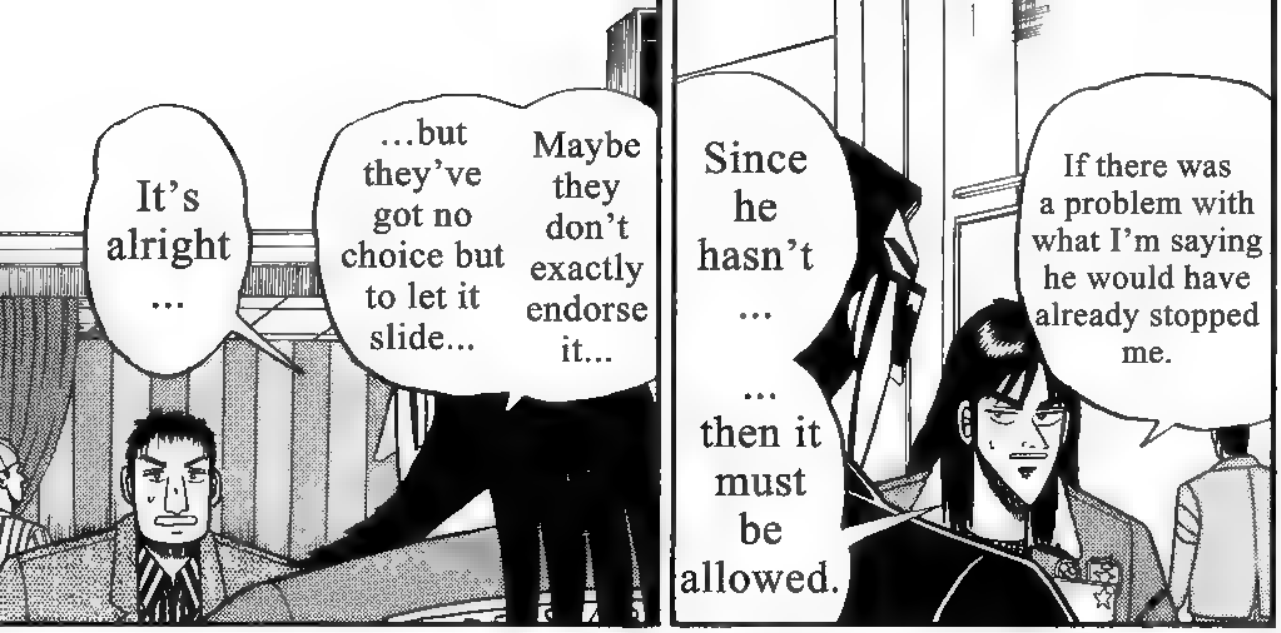
...I want to make it count!
At the very least ...

So ...

I want you to play ...
...for 3 stars!

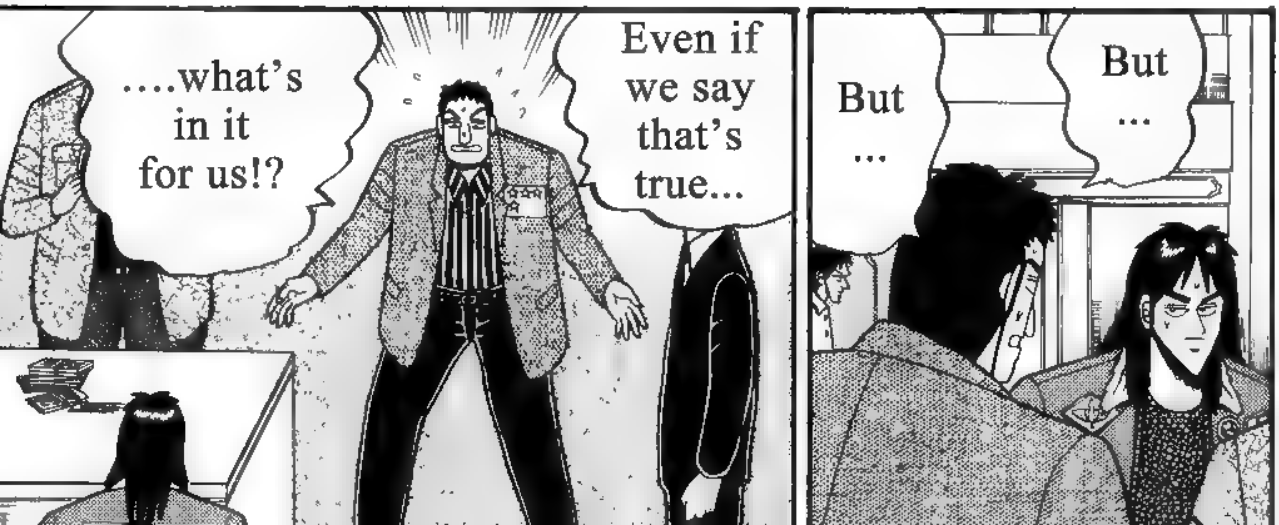
You moron ...
ざわ..
.....
Now you're speaking gibberish ...!
They won't let us do that!
No ...
I don't think ...
...it will be a problem.

After all...
There's nothing stopping us from adding that condition.
...we play for, you just hand over 2 more.
In addition to the 1 star...
There's no reason to worry ...
...is already a part of this game.
We know selling or transferring stars...
You don't see the guy in the black suit here objecting.
It's not possible ...
...we can play for 3 stars, 4 stars, as many as we like...
As long as the players agree beforehand ...
Huh ...?
.....
No way ...!
FAR EAST AIR FORCE


It's alright ...
...but they've got no choice but to let it slide...
Maybe they don't exactly endorse it...
Since he hasn't ... ... then it must be allowed.
If there was a problem with what I'm saying he would have already stopped me.

Ahh ...

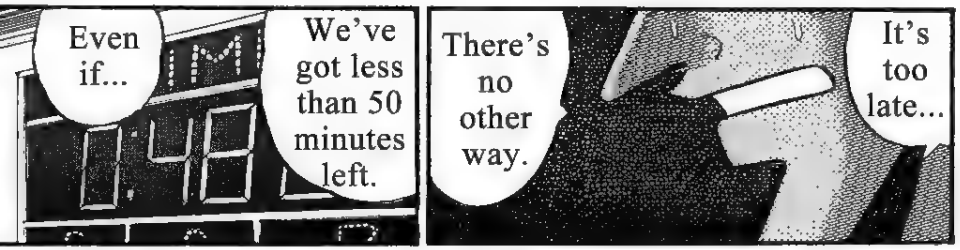
Ngh ...
ざわ‥ざわ‥
……
ざわ‥


....what's in it for us!?
Even if we say that's true...
But ...
But ...

Let's go, Kitami-san.
Wait ...!
If you want to gamble for them you'd need to offer at least 10 mil. yen!
Right now we could sell these stars for 5 mil.
...isn't worth 3 of ours.
First of all, 6 mil. yen and your 1 star...
Who said... ... anything about ...
Don't be so hasty ...!
The money is a bonus...
That's not what the money is for.
?
...wanting to wager my 1 star and this money against your 3?
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

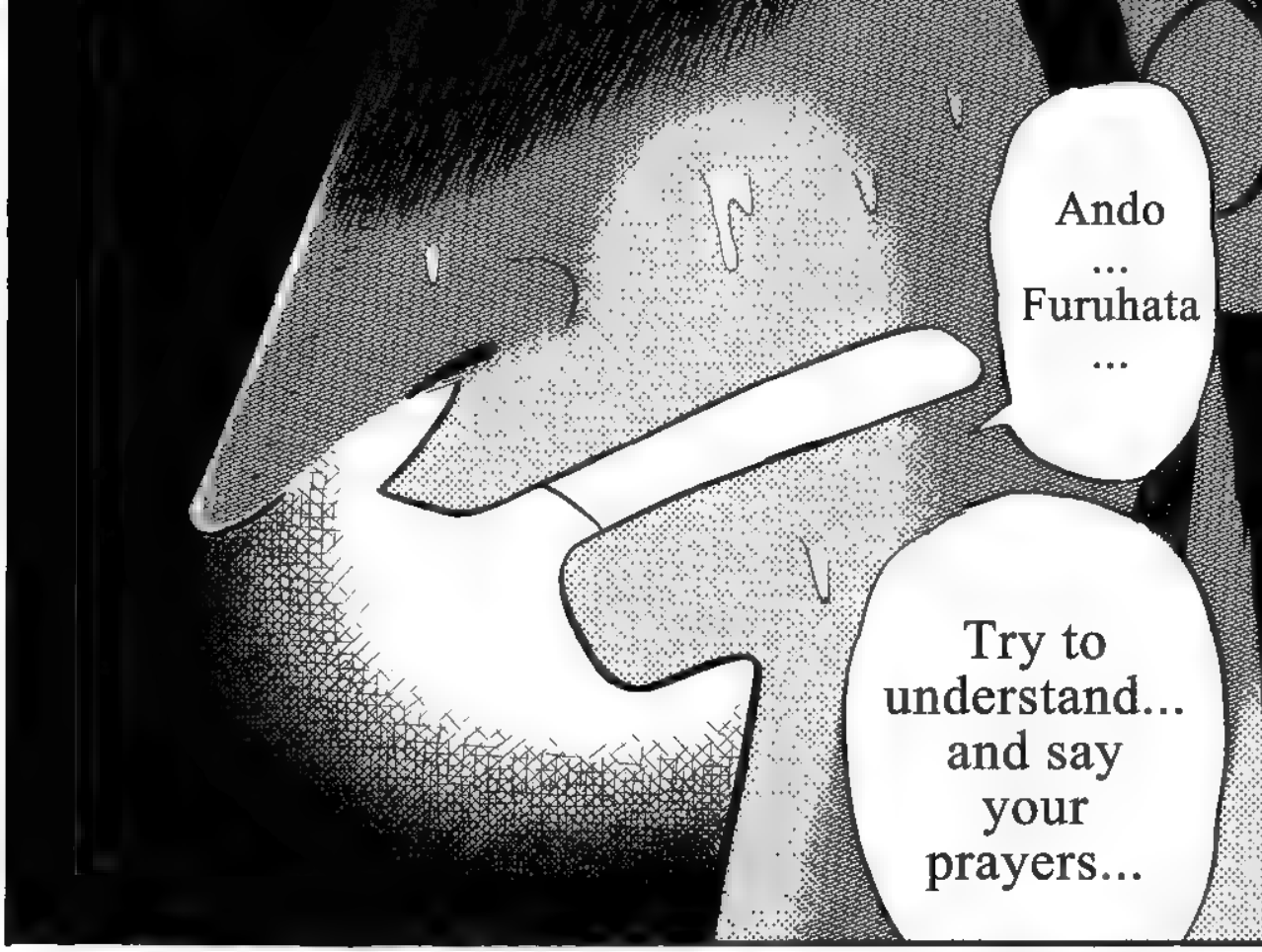
No strings attached.
The stars...
If I lose the money is yours, free and clear.
...if you go ahead and do me this favor.
It's something extra I'll throw in, to sweeten the pot...
...we take care of separately!
.....
...and then 2 more...
One from me...
Huh...?
?

...from the 2 behind me!

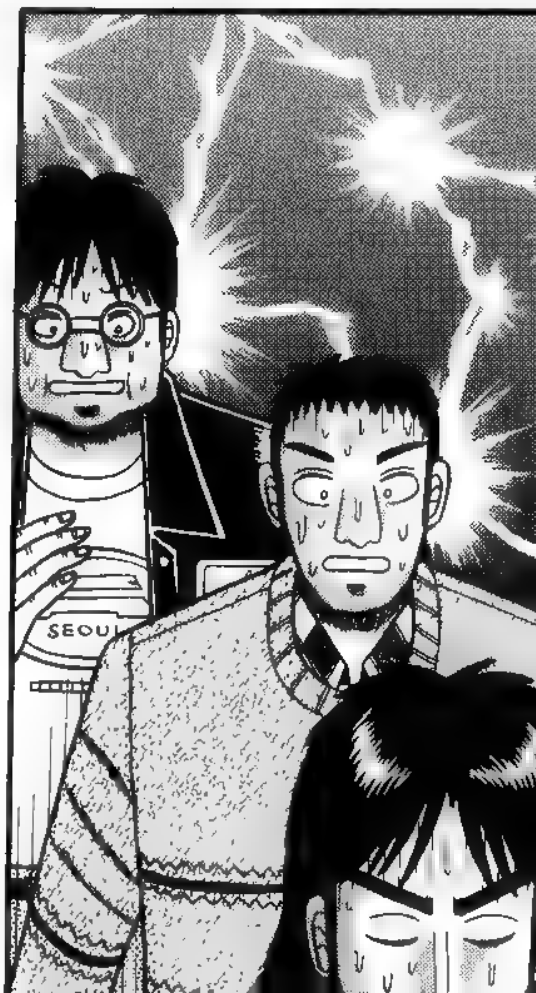

Even if...
We've got less than 50 minutes left.
There's no other way.
It's too late...

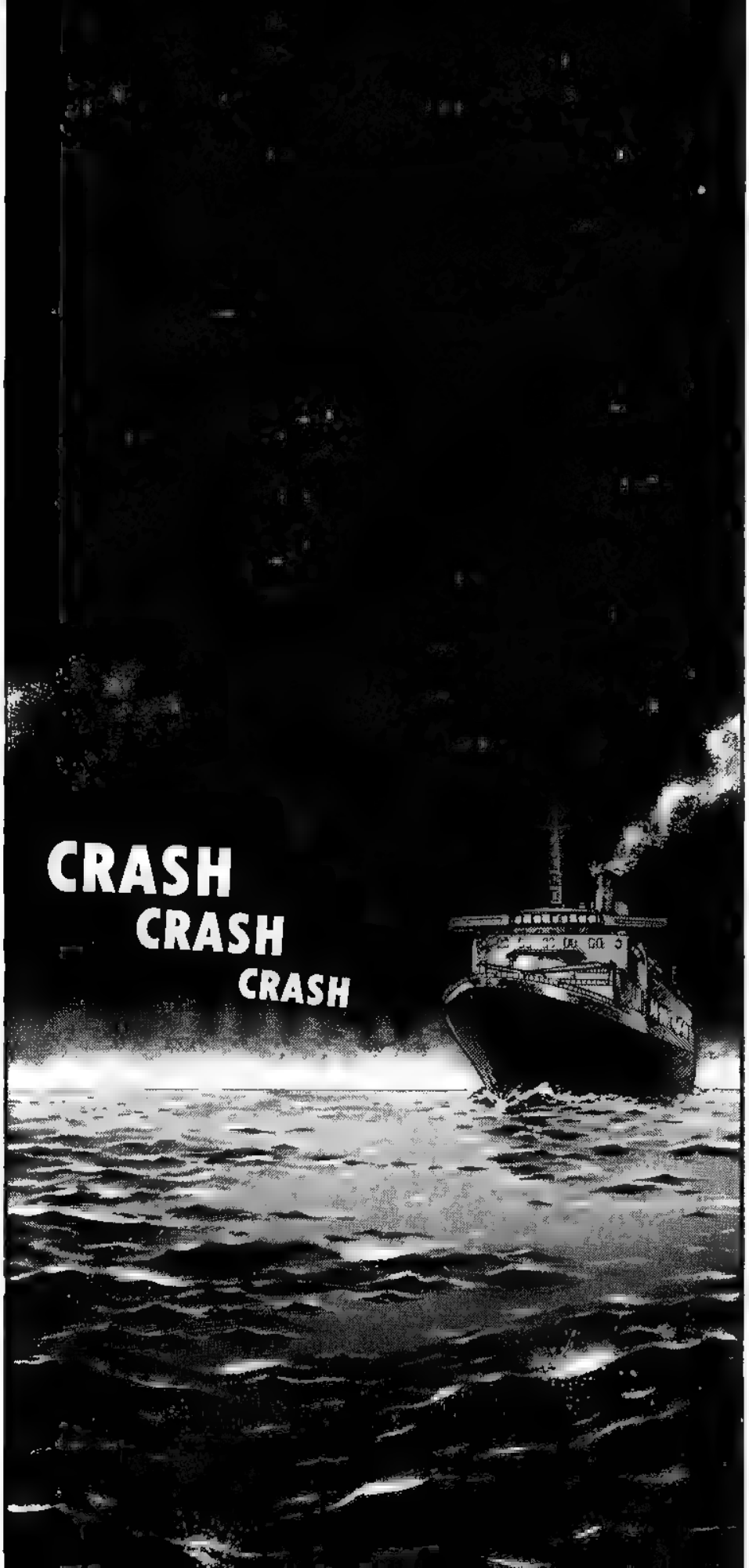
Please, try to understand ...
...we need to win big.
If we're going to avoid it...
We have to go out on a limb this 1 time.
...it's unlikely we take 9 stars.
...we managed to catch a winning streak...
Game-over is waiting just around the corner.

Ando... Listen closely.
You can't ...
But... But...
Furuhata ...
What ...!?
.....

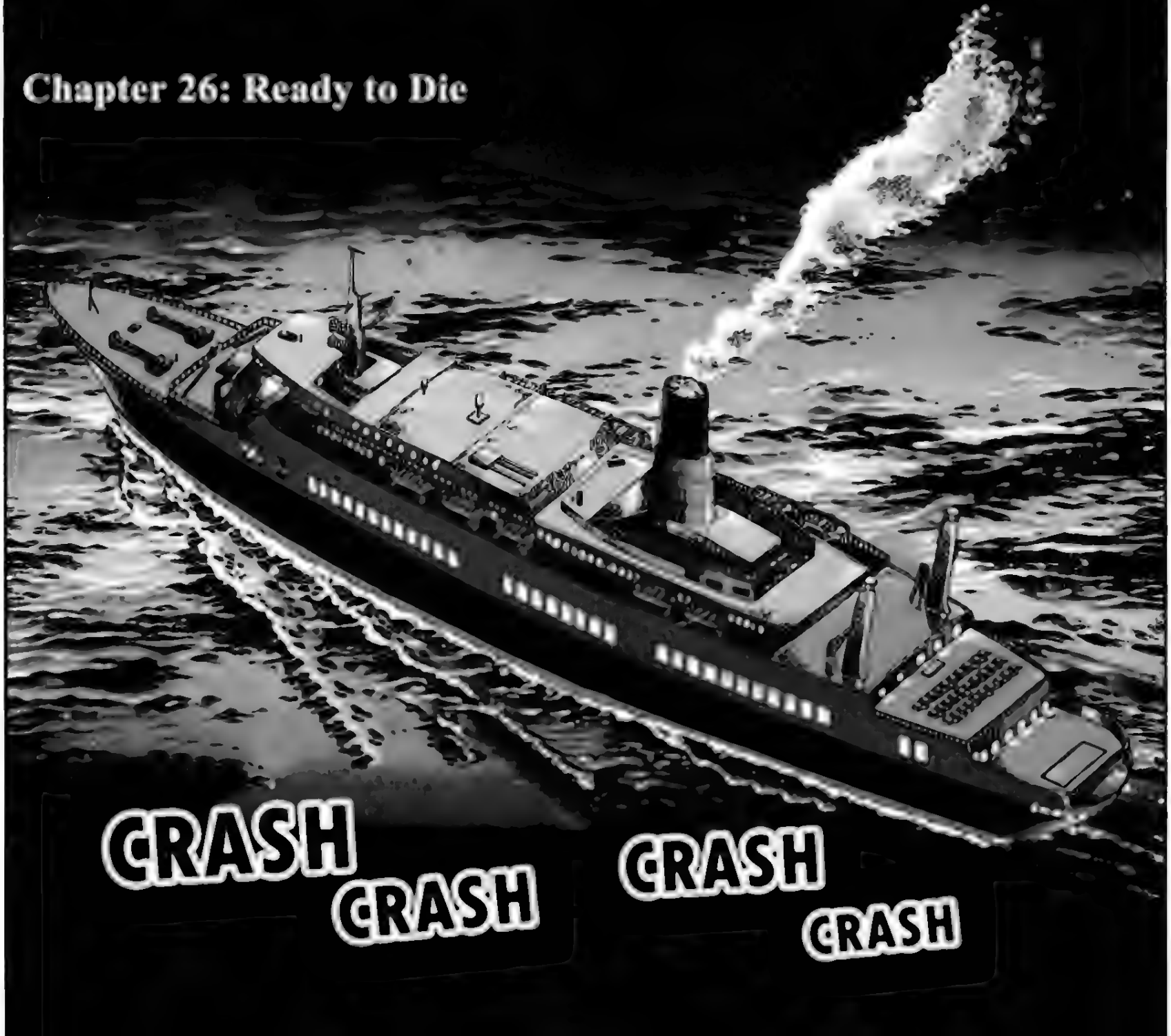

Ando
...
Furuhata
...
Try to understand... and say your prayers...

End of Chapter 25


Ahh ...!
SEOU



Try to understand...



And...Furuhata...

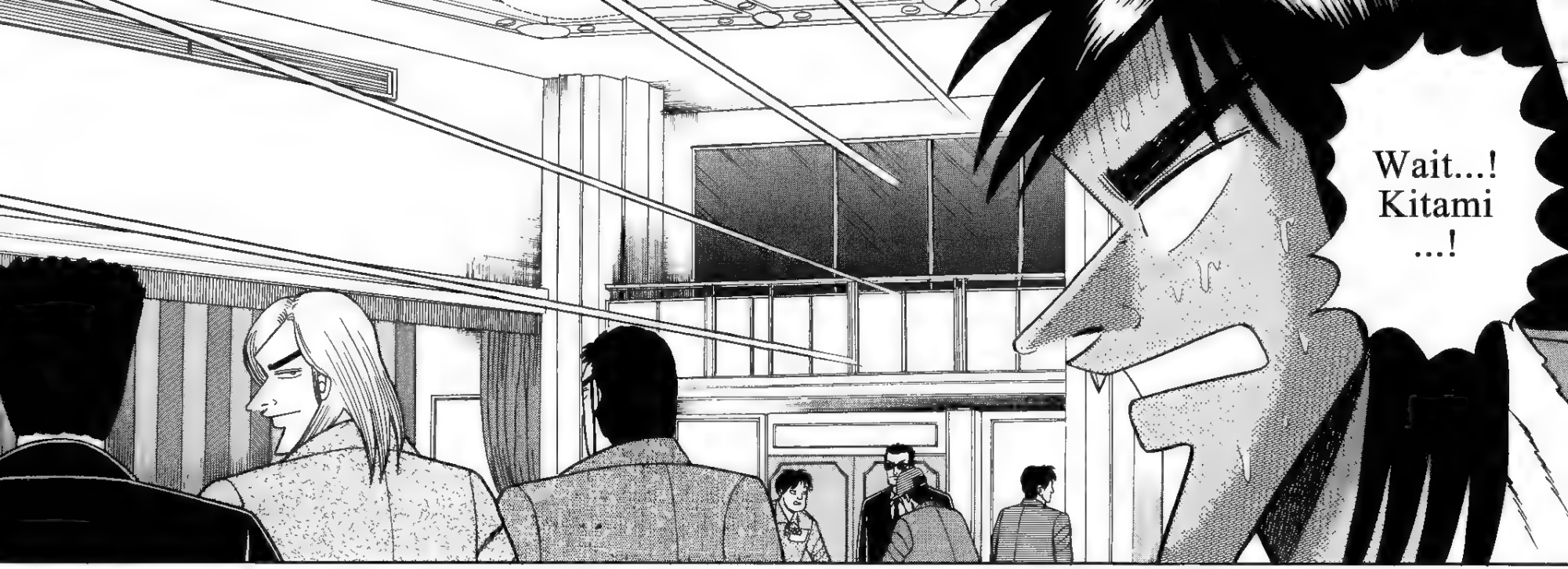
...and say your prayers...

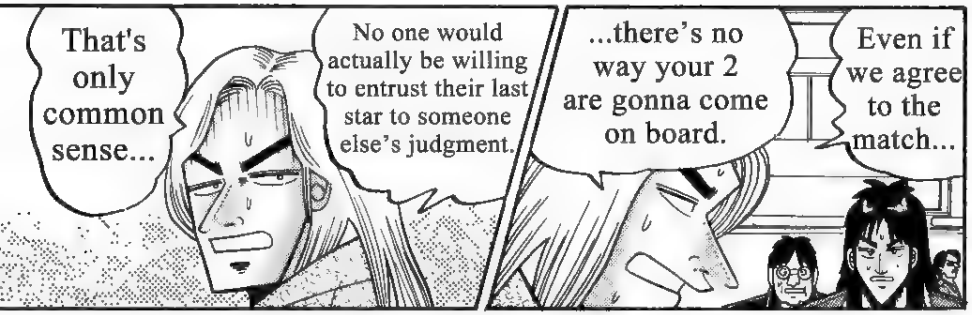
You're talking crazy ...!
Stop and think about this!
Please ...!
Ahhhh ...
SEOUL
...to throw our lives away on the luck of the draw.
Just because we're running out of time, that's no reason...
Furuhata ...
You don't need to risk all 3 of our stars...
We need to get another 6 stars ...
.....
It's already down to the wire ...!
.....

Kaiji-san...!
That means your stars, too...
We need to play for big stakes.
...while there's still 30 minutes left on the clock.
You can do whatever you want with your star...
Don't get us involved ...!
I won't do it!
No! No...!
These are our last stars ...!
...but leave ours alone!
.....
Me neither ...!
No way, I won't do it!
Tell them the deal's off...!

That dumb fool...
Hehehe
Those 2 aren't going to listen.
It's out of the question.
What's he trying to pull this time...?
Telling them to trust their last star to someone else's judgment is too much to ask ...
It's not like they've got stars to spare...
They're not budging...!
Not a chance ...
There's no way he gets those 2, "Furuhata" and "Ando", to agree to this match.
Of course they say no ...
...that last star means their very lives.
For guys in their position ...

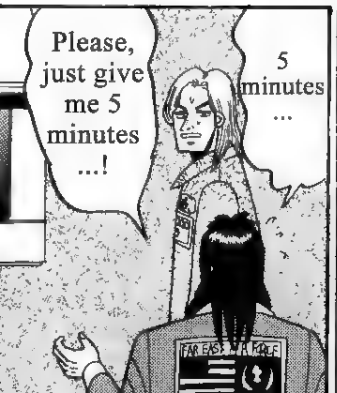
The only thing holding us together is self-interest.
...so there's no reason for us to trust each other.
We're all in the same boat here. We didn't form these teams before we got onto the boat ...
No surprise there.
...getting these 2 to follow me...
...so I know what I'm talking about...
I remember how much trouble I had...
We all just banded together in a hurry ...
I'm done with this nonsense ...!
SWOOSH
This 3 star match just isn't gonna fly...!
Ah... Okay ...!
Huh ...?
Let's go...


Wait...! Kitami ...!


That's only common sense...
No one would actually be willing to entrust their last star to someone else's judgment.
...there's no way your 2 are gonna come on board.
Even if we agree to the match...

You 3 are the ones who need to get your act together ...!
Who do you think you're talking to? Run away!

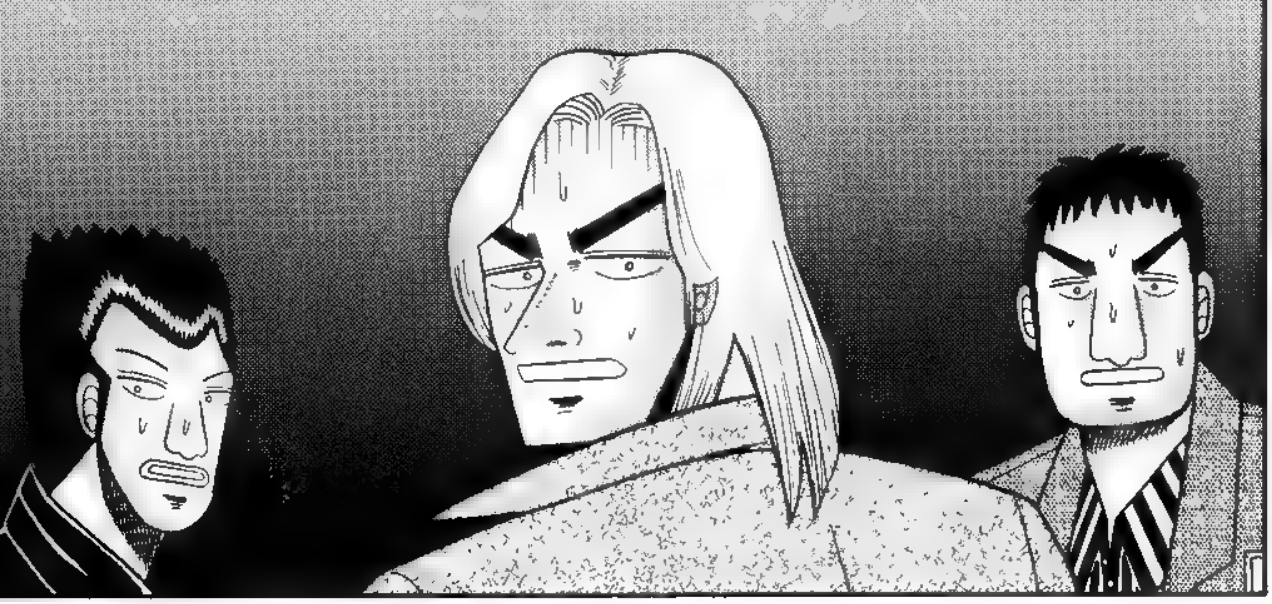
Seriously ...!
Don't try to run away...!


Please, just give me 5 minutes ...!
5 minutes ...

Wait ...!
Later ...!

Give it up ...
They're almost ready...!

Please ...!
You don't give up, do you...?
.....
Just you wait, you'll see...!
I'm telling you, it's hopeless ...!
Whatever ...!
.....
Let's go...!
5 minutes ...
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
The 6 mil. yen...!
I'll put up the money...!
Alright ...!
GRIND
Ngh ...!

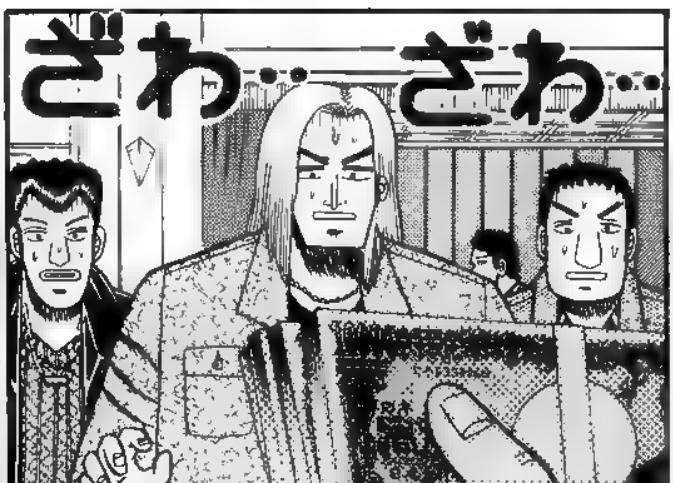


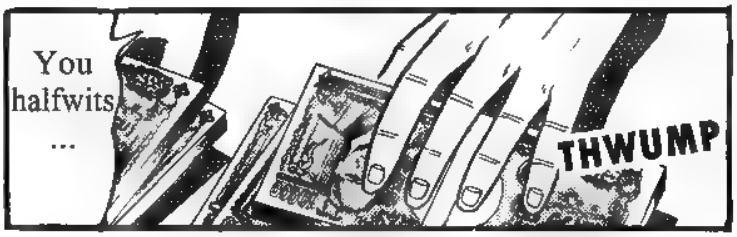
...you can have the 6 mil. yen.
If I can't get them together in 5 minutes ...
Just wait...!

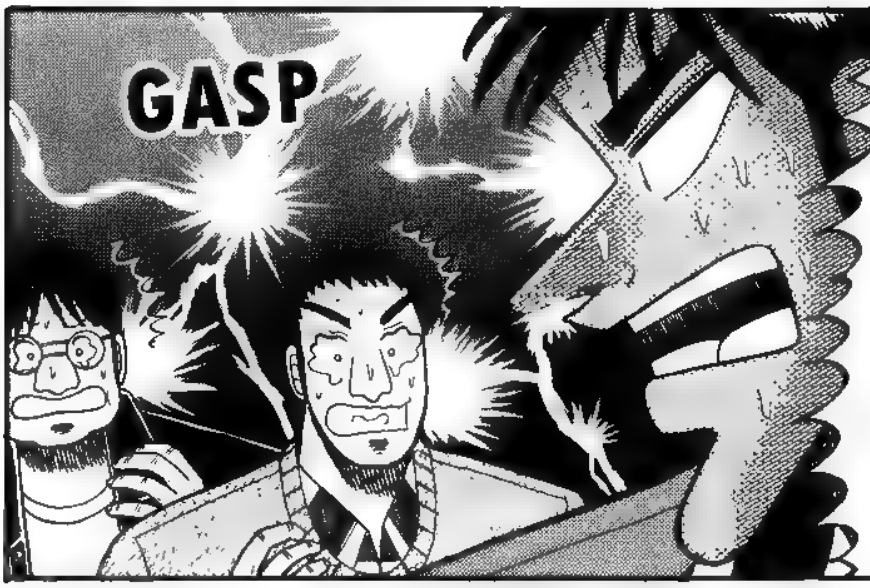
You can have it...!
Huh ...?

Oh ...
Ahh ...
ざわ・・
・・・・・・

・・・・・・
What are you saying ...!?
K-Kaiji-san...


ざわ・・
ざわ・・

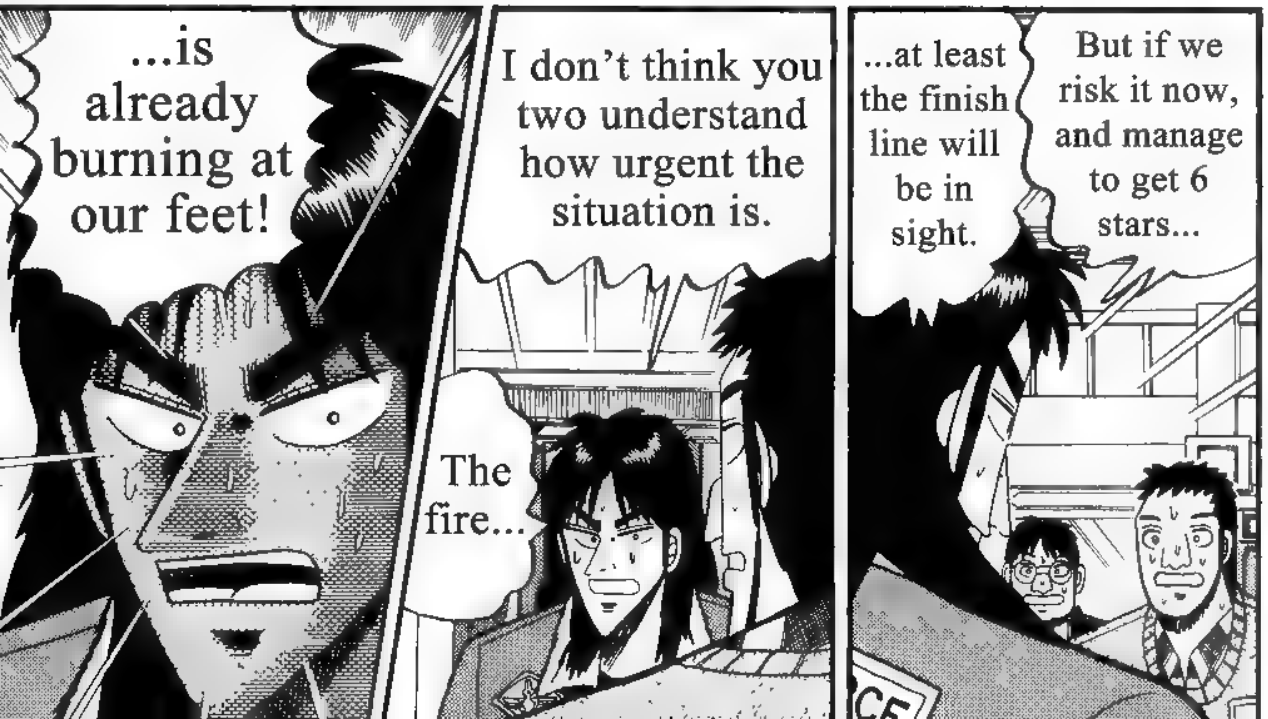


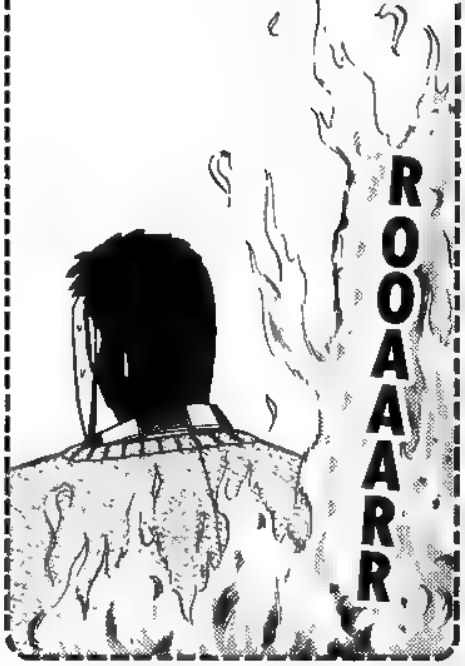


You're the ones who need to snap out of it...!

What's gonna happen if we just sit back with our hands in our pockets for the next 30 minutes?
Pretty soon even chance will be gone...!
Huh ...?
...to stake our lives on a game of chance...
But... That's still no reason ...
You blockhead ...!

Turning 3 stars into 9 will be like building castles in the air.
We won't even have chance to fall back on...!
Once things get desperate, there's no guarantee we'll even be able to find opponents...
...in the last 10 or 20 minutes?
What are we supposed to do...


...is already burning at our feet!
I don't think you two understand how urgent the situation is.
The fire...
...at least the finish line will be in sight.
But if we risk it now, and manage to get 6 stars...


ROOAARR

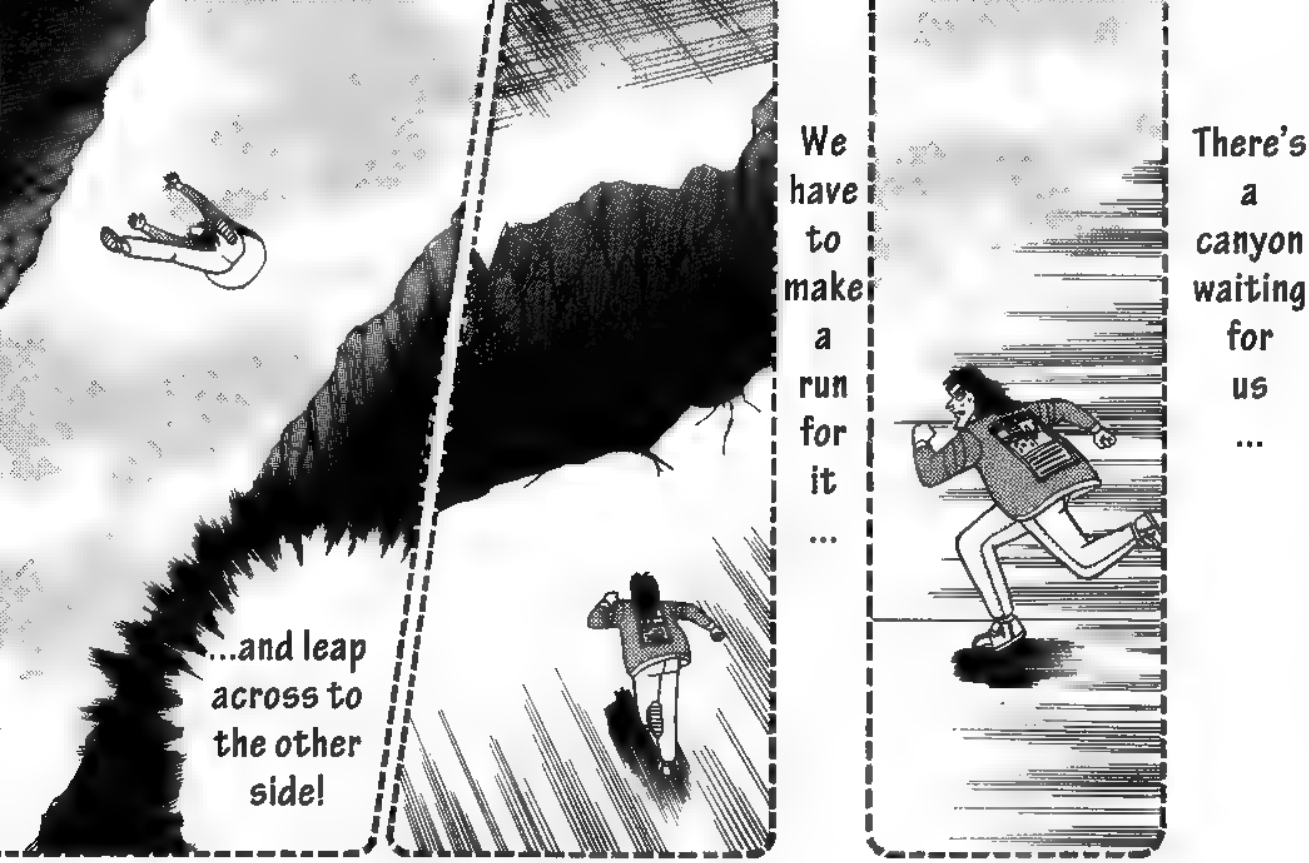
WHOOSH

Ah ...!

The only way left is forward...!

Asking me to stop now...
...is sheer and utter nonsense.

Time is catching up to us...
If we turn back now, all will be lost ...

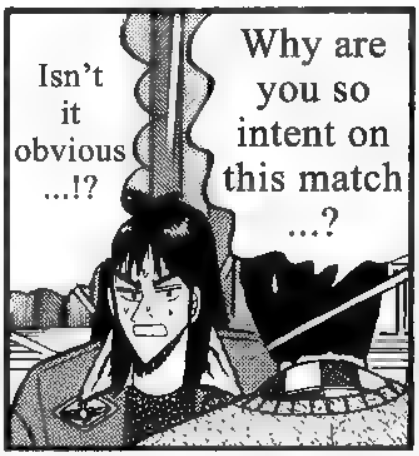

There's a canyon waiting for us ...
We have to make a run for it ...
...and leap across to the other side!

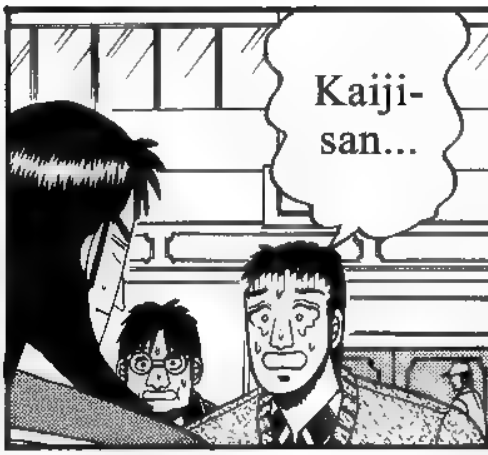
Kaiji-san...
First of all ...
If we stop now, we'll lose our last 6 mil. yen.
With only 3 stars left...
...that could spell disaster.

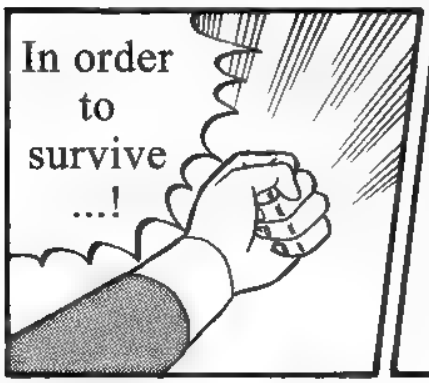
What's your plan then? Huh?
Ando ...?
Furuhata ...?
What's your plan...?
It's time to get with the program ...!

Our escape route has already been cut off...!

In order to win ...!


Isn't it obvious ...!?
Why are you so intent on this match ...?

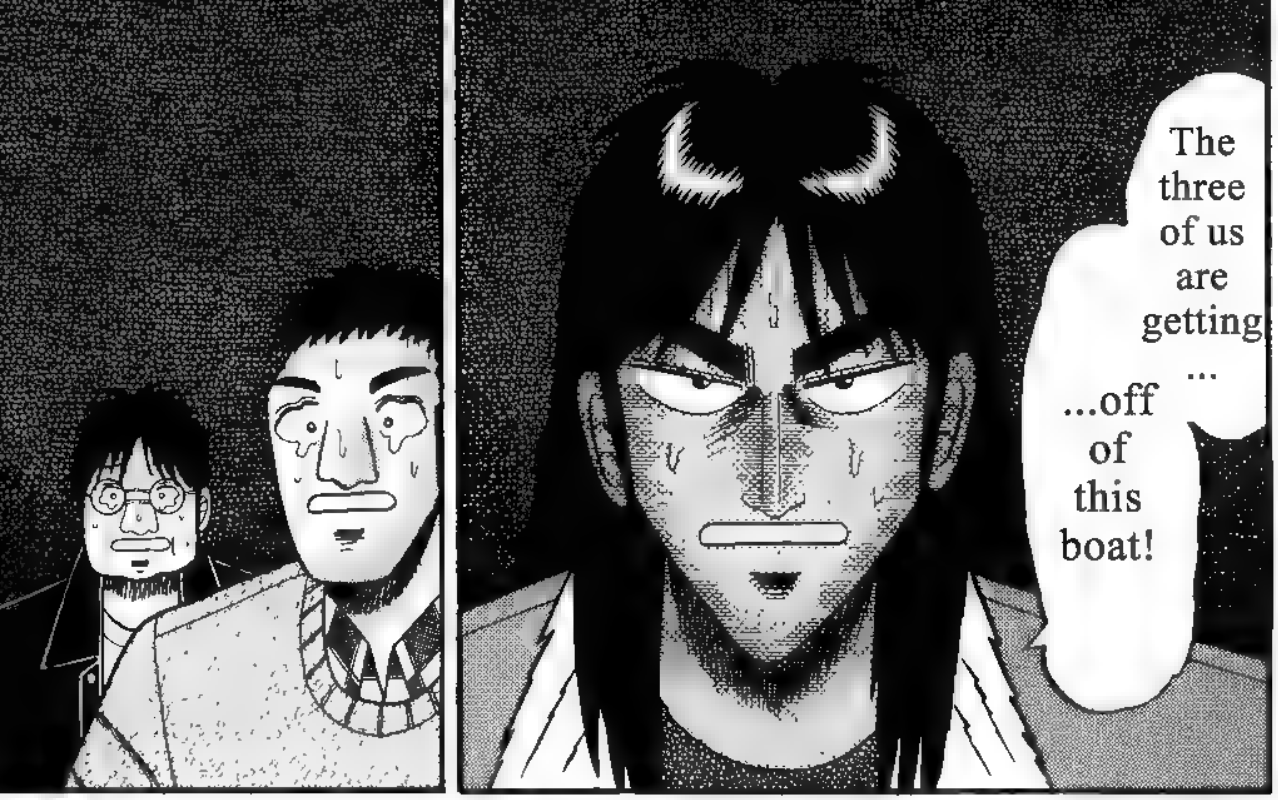

Kaiji-san...


In order to survive ...!

In order to take 9 stars...!

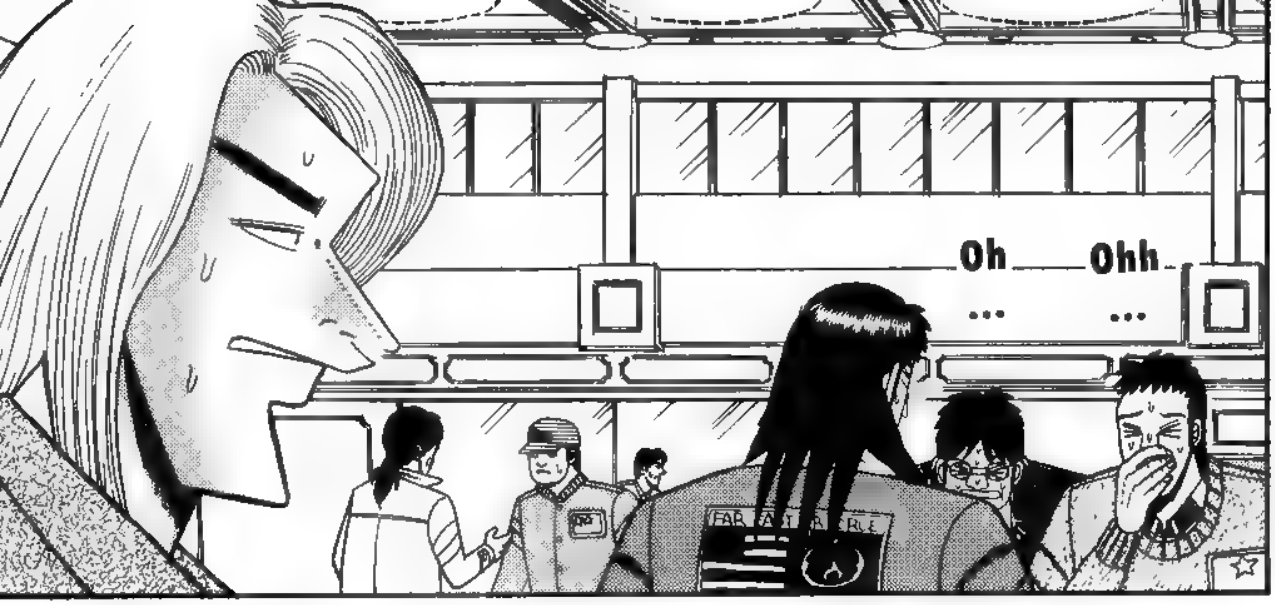
That's right...
When this is all over we're gonna smile...

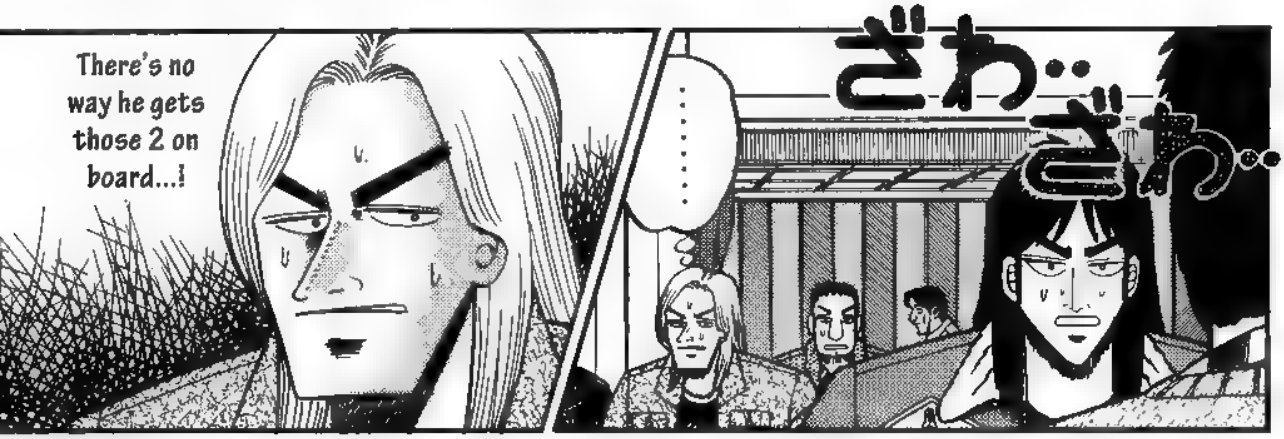
... and Ando ...
Me, you...



Just this one time ...!

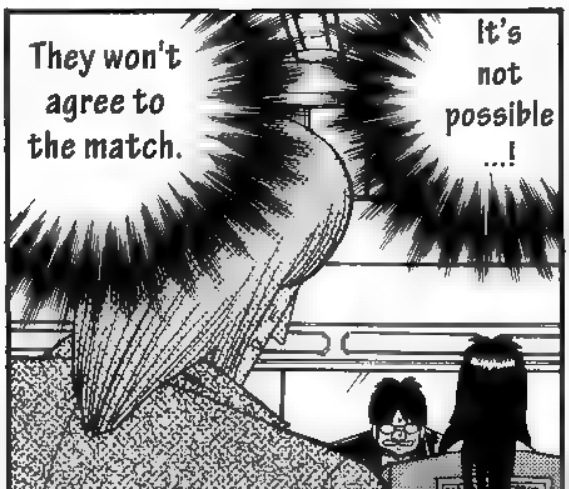
Show some courage!!
...the courage to survive!
End of Chapter 26

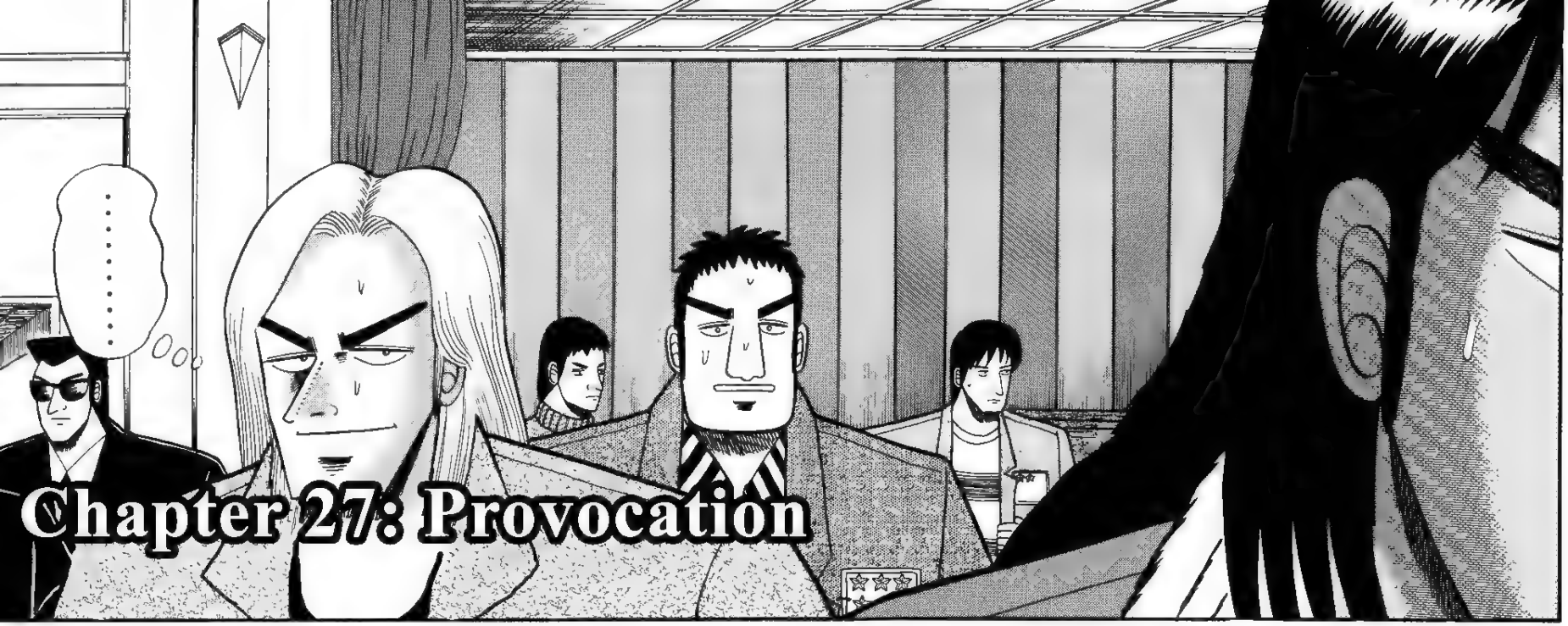




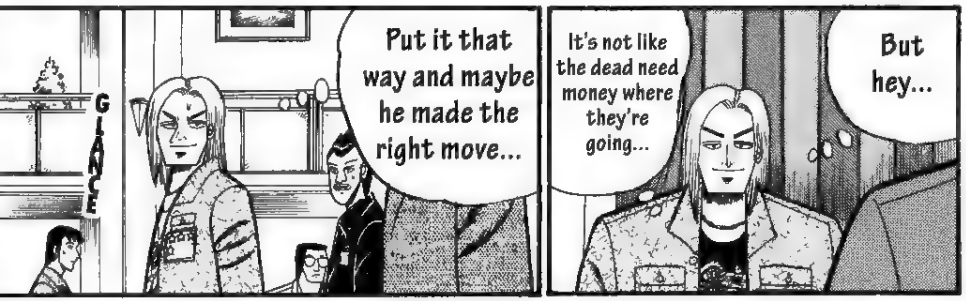
They won't agree to play for 3 stars ...!

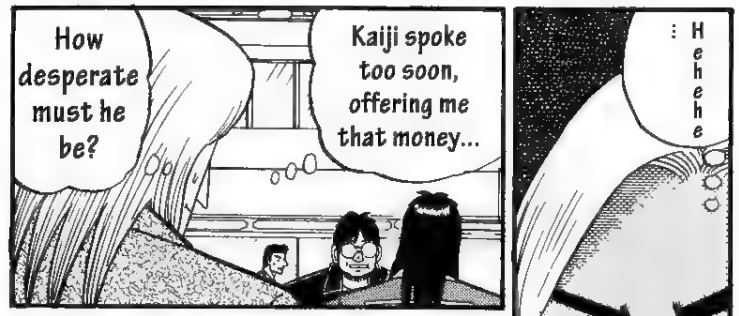
He's going to fail ...!

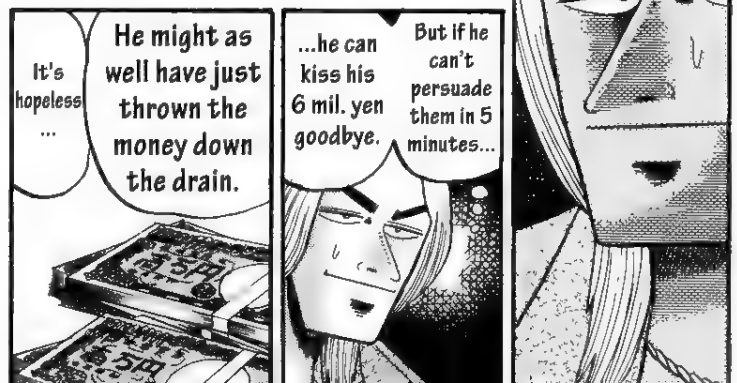




There's no way he gets them on board!!!





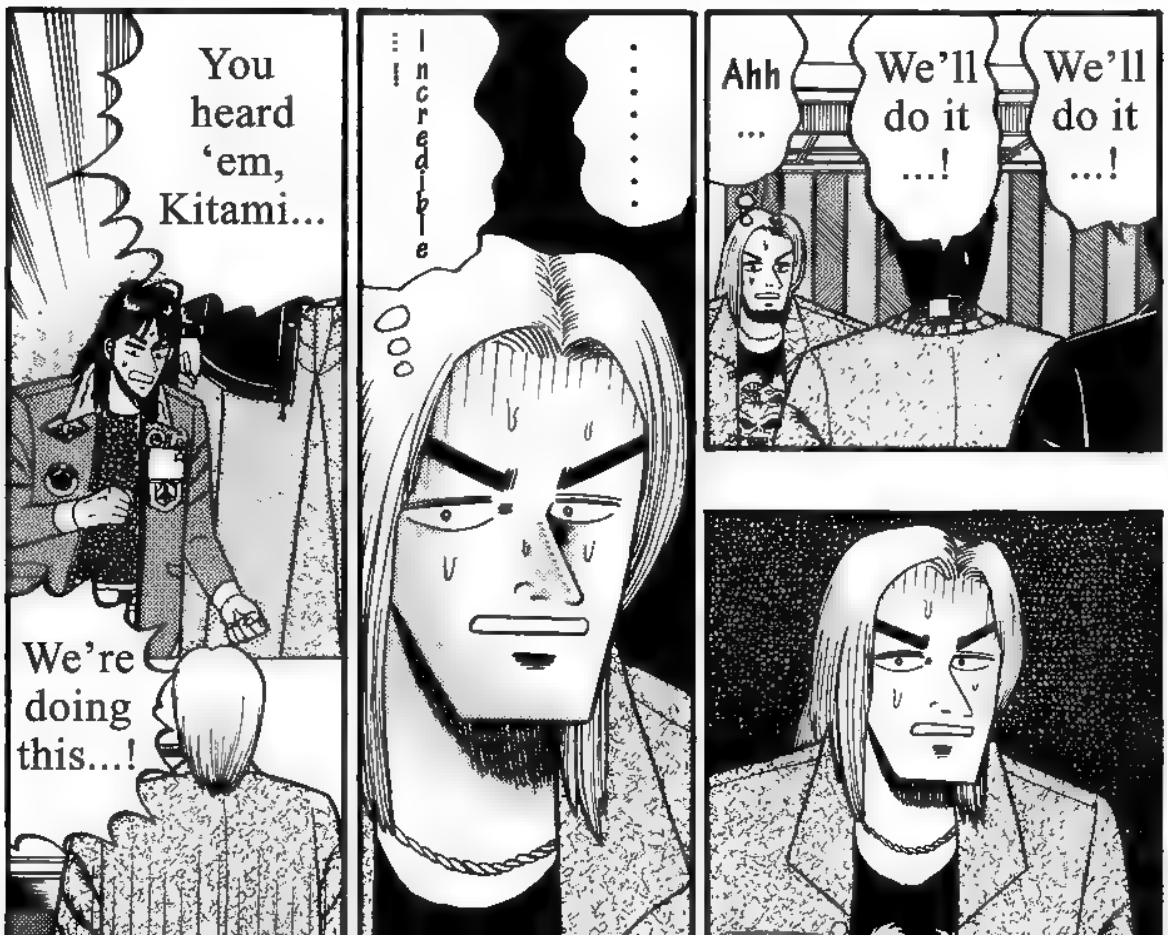

It's hopeless...
He might as well have just thrown the money down the drain.
...he can kiss his 6 mil. yen goodbye.
But if he can't persuade them in 5 minutes...

Huh ...?

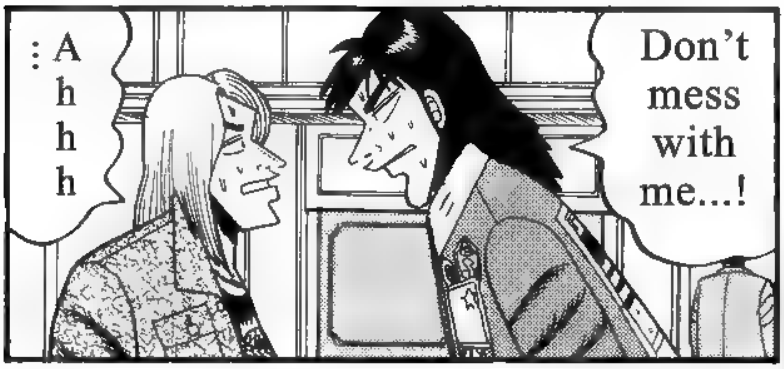
They both said okay ...!
I won them over, Kitami ...!

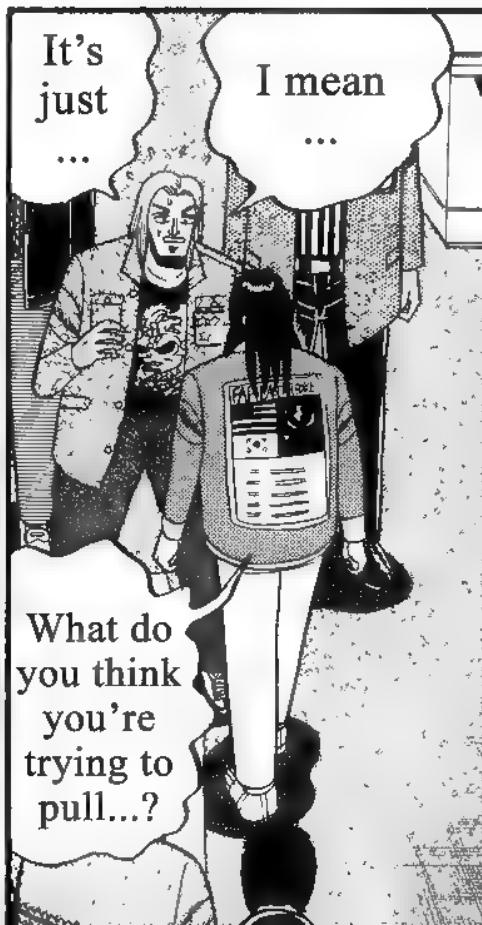
Are you two sure that's okay...?
For real ...?
WAH
WAH
WAH
What ...!?

Yeah ...
Yeah ...


You heard 'em, Kitami...
We're doing this...!
Incredible...!
.....
Ahh ...
We'll do it ...!
We'll do it ...!

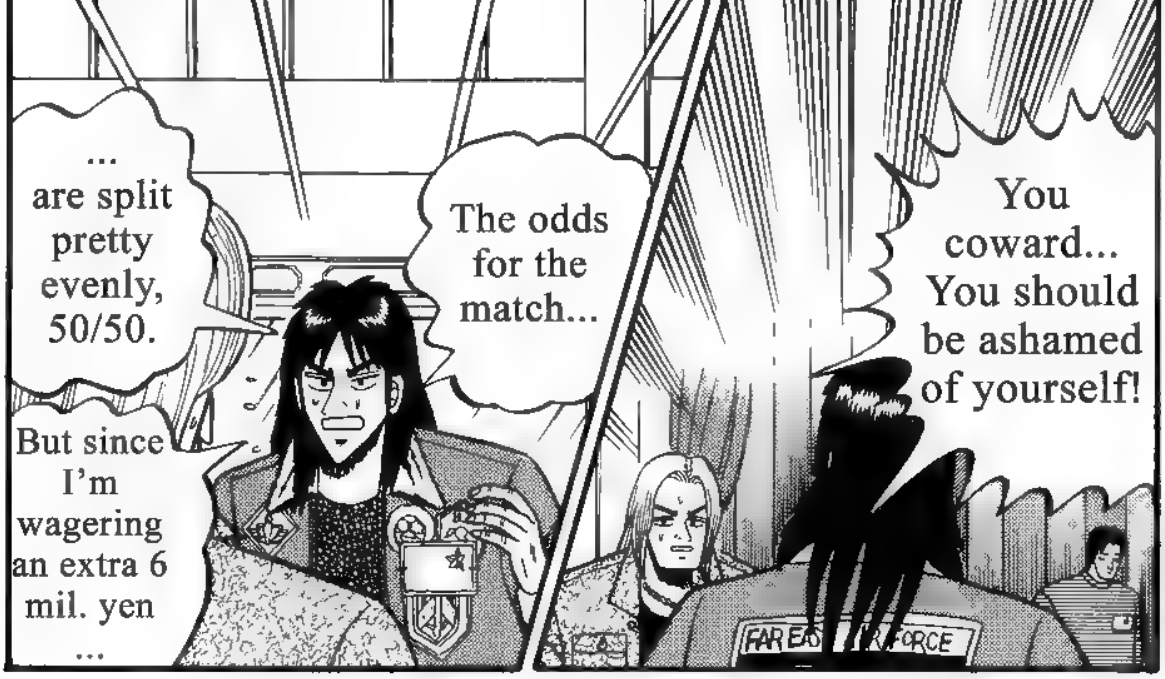
Huh ...?
I don't know about that...
Actually ...
Huh ...?
The match is on...! For 3 stars...!


: Ahhh
Don't mess with me...!

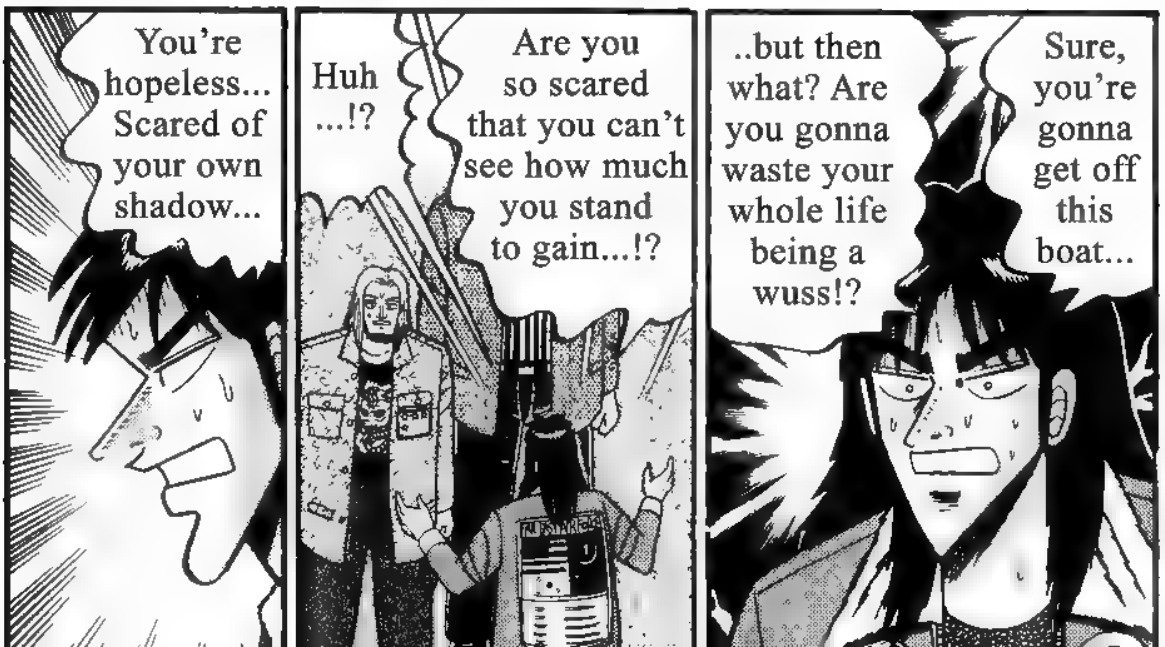

It's just ...
I mean ...
What do you think you're trying to pull...?

You can't weasel out of this now...!
Ahhh ...!
THONK

You were about to take the money just now, weren't you...!?
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
You piece of scum...!
If we weren't stuck on this boat I'd beat you into a pulp!
...now that I'm ready, you think you can just back out whenever you please!?
But ...
You thought you could just walk away with the money if I failed...
That's right ...!
But it doesn't matter ...!
There's no reason for you to sweat...!
No one's sending you to the other room...!
You're still trying to chicken out...!
Even if the three of you happen to lose...
...you'll just go from 12 stars down to 9.

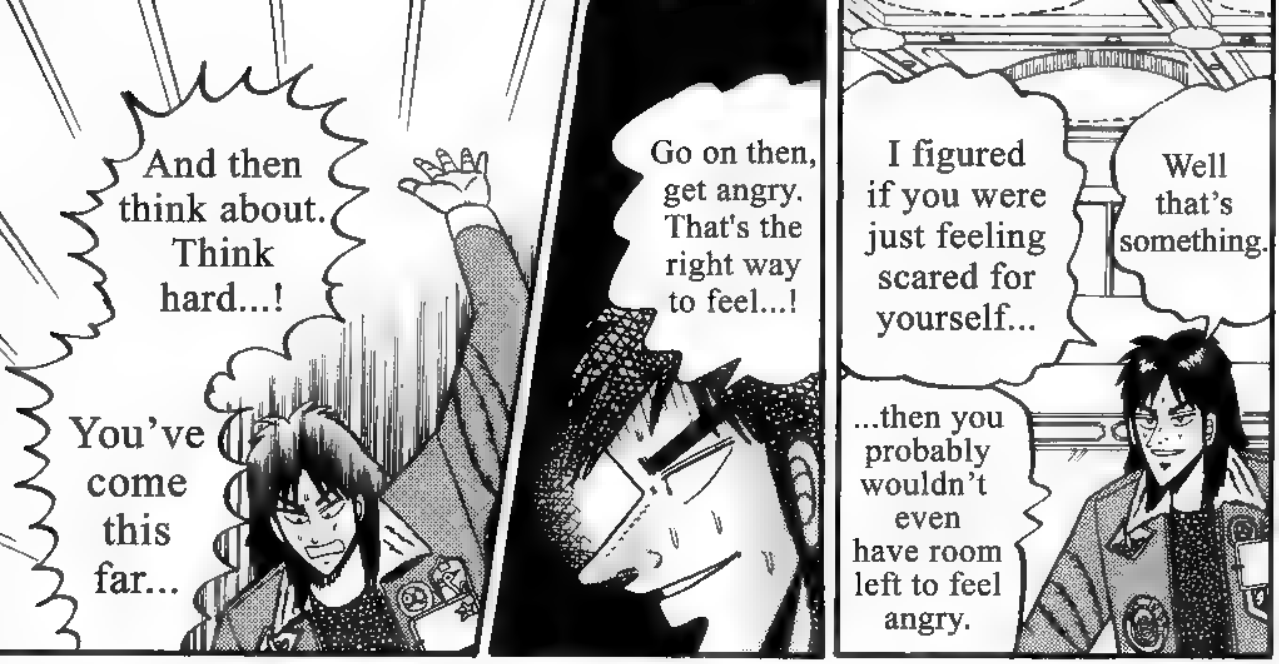

...
are split pretty evenly, 50/50.
But since I'm wagering an extra 6 mil. yen ...
The odds for the match...
You coward... You should be ashamed of yourself!
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

... nothing gained ?
What is it they say? Nothing ventured ...
Or do you like being a coward ?
...and you're still scared of losing 3 measly stars?
You've got that much to gain...
...you stand to gain the most if you come out ahead.


You're hopeless... Scared of your own shadow...
Huh ...!?
Are you so scared that you can't see how much you stand to gain...!?
..but then what? Are you gonna waste your whole life being a wuss!?
Sure, you're gonna get off this boat...

Let me say this clearly, so you can understand ...!
But an idiot who's scared of his own shadow...?
An idiot with a backbone might still stand a chance ...
It's pathetic ...
You're the type of guy who will never, ever succeed ...!
You're just a little scaredy-cat...
...so busy wetting your pants you can't even think straight.
You really are the lowest of the low.
Now that I think of it, you don't even amount to that much...!
Don't make me laugh...!
.....
You know what...
Ngh ...!

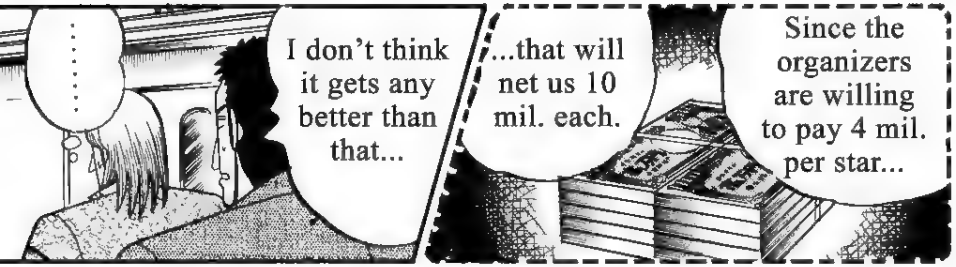
...you should just give up now.
If that's the case ...
Go ahead and die.
Do you think living just means that your heart pumps and your lungs breathe...?
Do you think this is living?
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
You're just full of it, and you smell like trash...!
You think you're clever but you're not...
...I wouldn't even bother stepping on you.
If you were a cockroach ...
Yeah ...?
You no-good ...
.....
No one is gonna try and stop you.
Why don't you do the world a favor already and just die?
Do it as soon as you get off the boat...!
Huh ...?
Did I make you angry ...?
What then ...?
Heheheh...

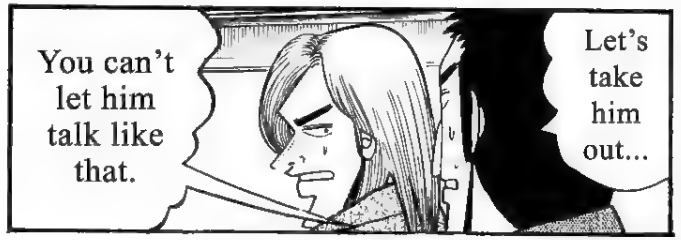

And then think about. Think hard...!
You've come this far...
Go on then, get angry. That's the right way to feel...!
I figured if you were just feeling scared for yourself...
Well that's something.
...then you probably wouldn't even have room left to feel angry.

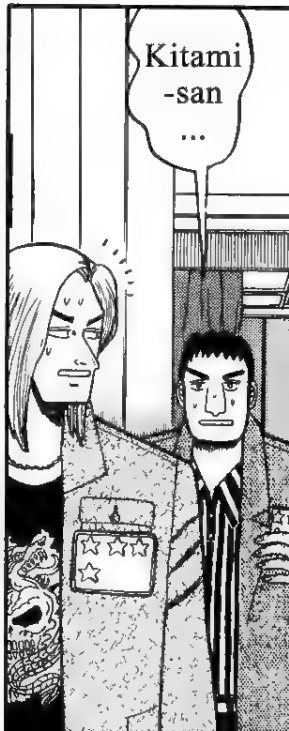
SLAM

It's time for a match ...!
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

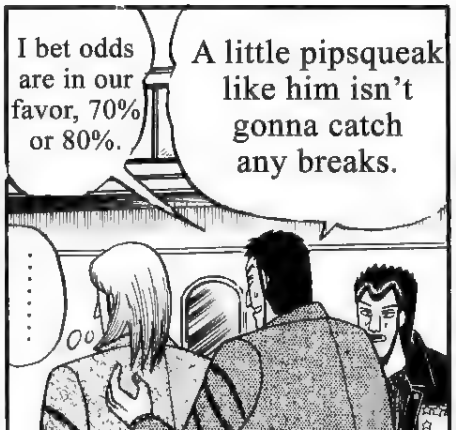
……
ざわ…
ざわ…


……
I don't think it gets any better than that...
...that will net us 10 mil. each.
Since the organizers are willing to pay 4 mil. per star...

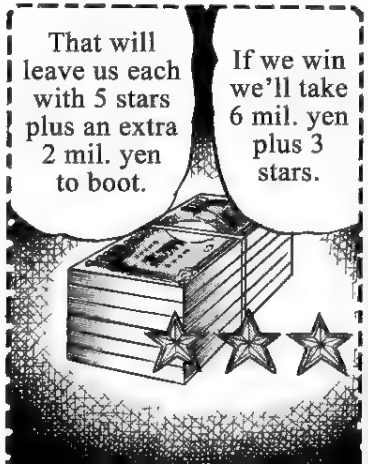

You can't let him talk like that.
Let's take him out...


Kitami -san ...

I agree ...!

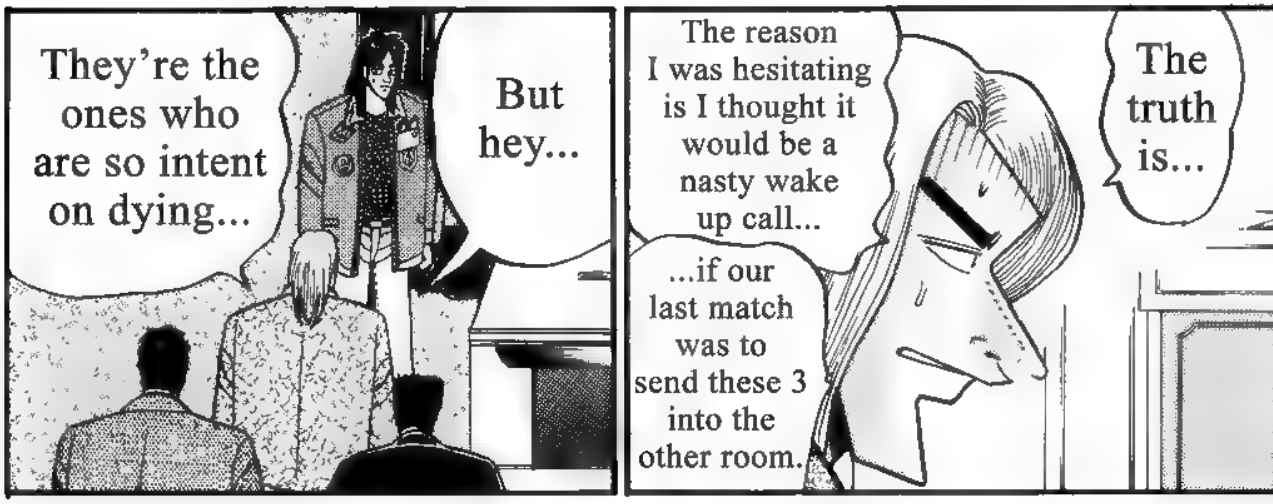

I bet odds are in our favor, 70% or 80%.
A little pipsqueak like him isn't gonna catch any breaks.
……

Don't worry ...!


That will leave us each with 5 stars plus an extra 2 mil. yen to boot.
If we win we'll take 6 mil. yen plus 3 stars.

Even if we lose, we still survive.
Besides, he's right.

Why not ...!?
.....
Kitami -san...
.....

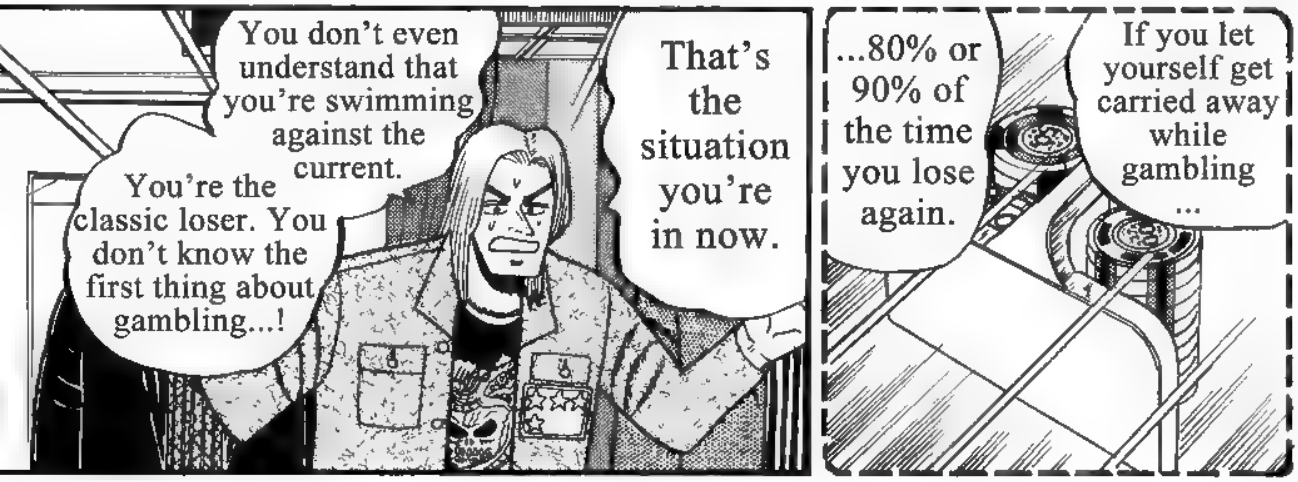

They're the ones who are so intent on dying...
But hey...
The reason I was hesitating is I thought it would be a nasty wake up call...
...if our last match was to send these 3 into the other room.
The truth is...

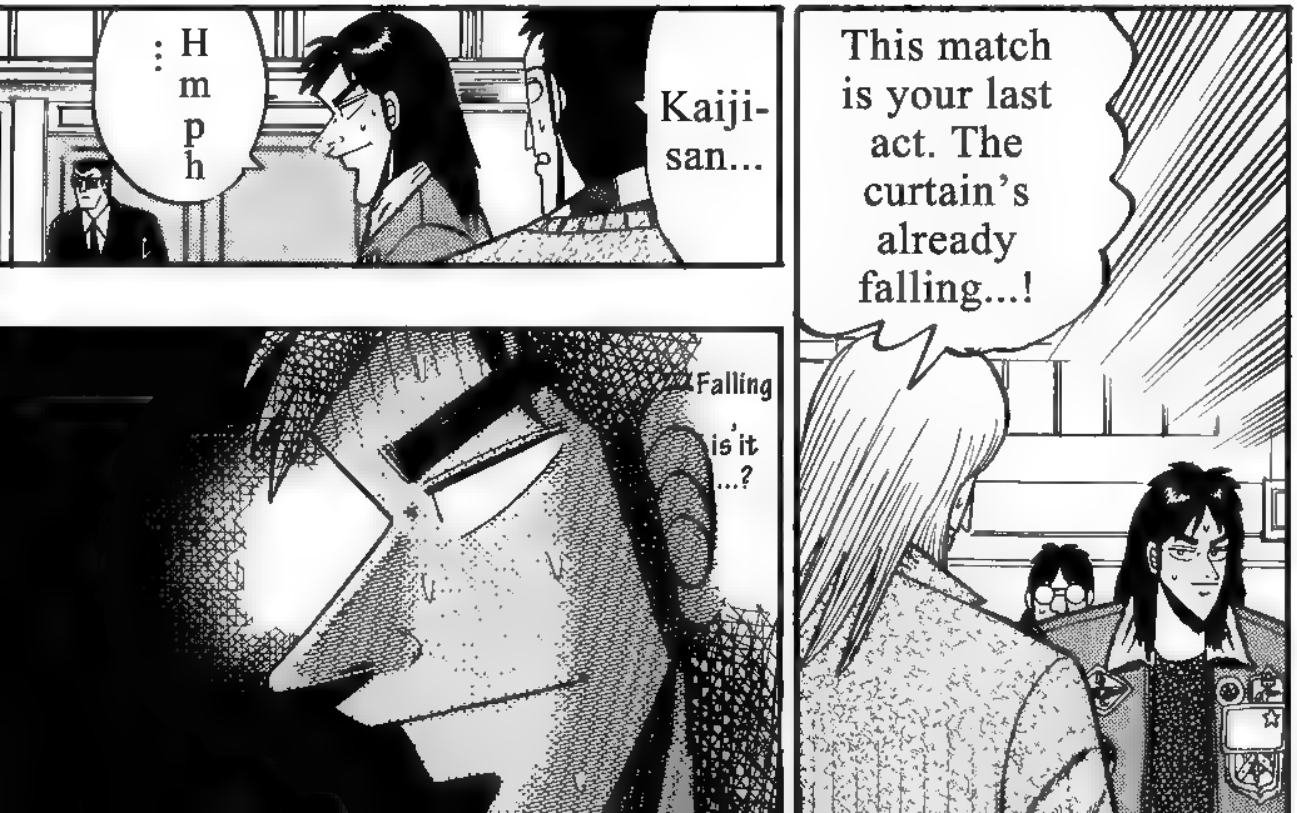
I accept ...!
Kitami -san...!
It's his own fault for losing his temper...
Kaiji ...

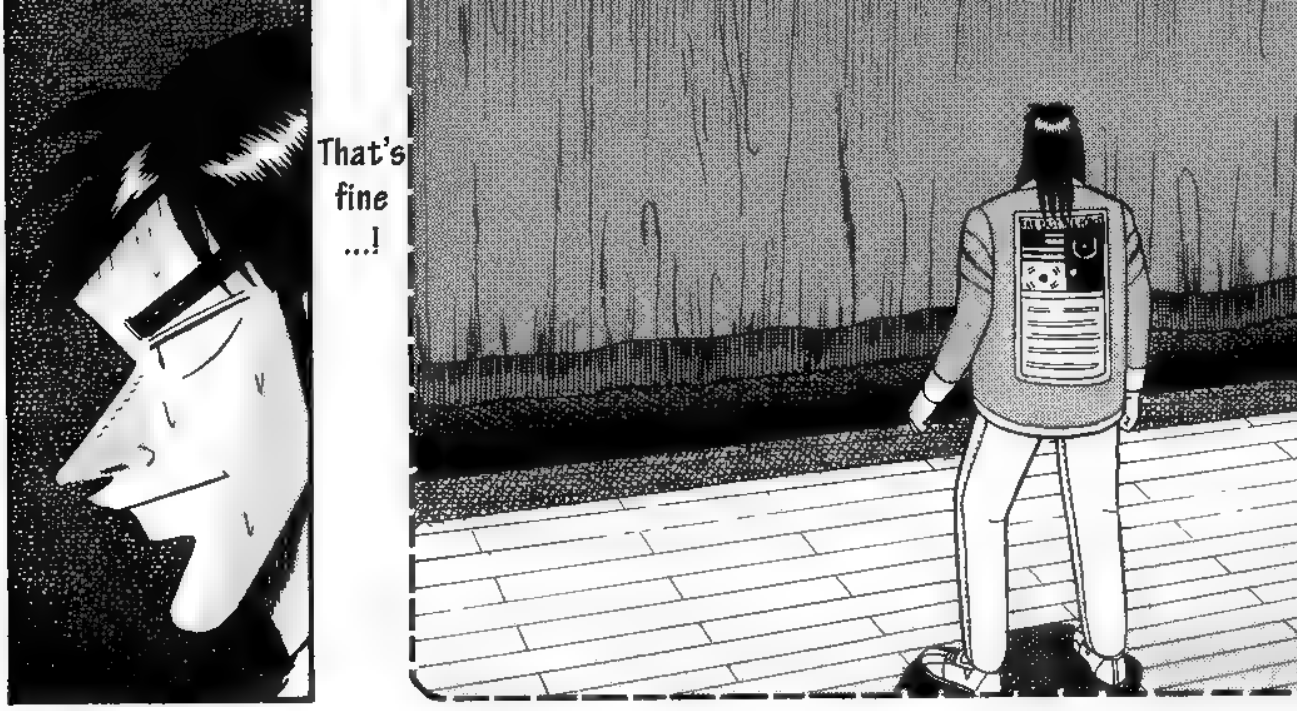
Hehehe
Kaiji-san...
ざわ..
.....
Shut your mouth ...!
...might still be too wet to burn.
I was worried a pile of trash like you...
Alright, finally ...
You're the hardest to throw away. That's the worst kind!
Then... Then... You're bulk trash!
If I'm wet trash...
You think you can just say whatever you like?
Who do you think you are?
You blockhead ...!
...running into things all do or die...
...you think you're real cool...
I bet ...
You don't stop to think. All you do is rush in and get in other people's way.

First of all...
Will that attitude bring you any closer to winning ...?
You got it wrong from the very start.
You got it all wrong ...!
That you're brave?
Do you think you're being manly ?
Well think again ...
That's the real way to win...
...you always have to play it cool.
I don't care what your game is...
That's why they call it gambling ...
But chances are that doesn't happen ...
Get that through your head...!
...and end up winning big...
...while the chips are down...
It looks great then you bet it all...
Yeah, sure...

That's the way it goes.
9 times out of 10 they lose...
It's what happens when you're already on a downward spiral.
...of anyone on a losing streak, who bet their last hope on a single square....
Have you ever heard...
...and actually won?

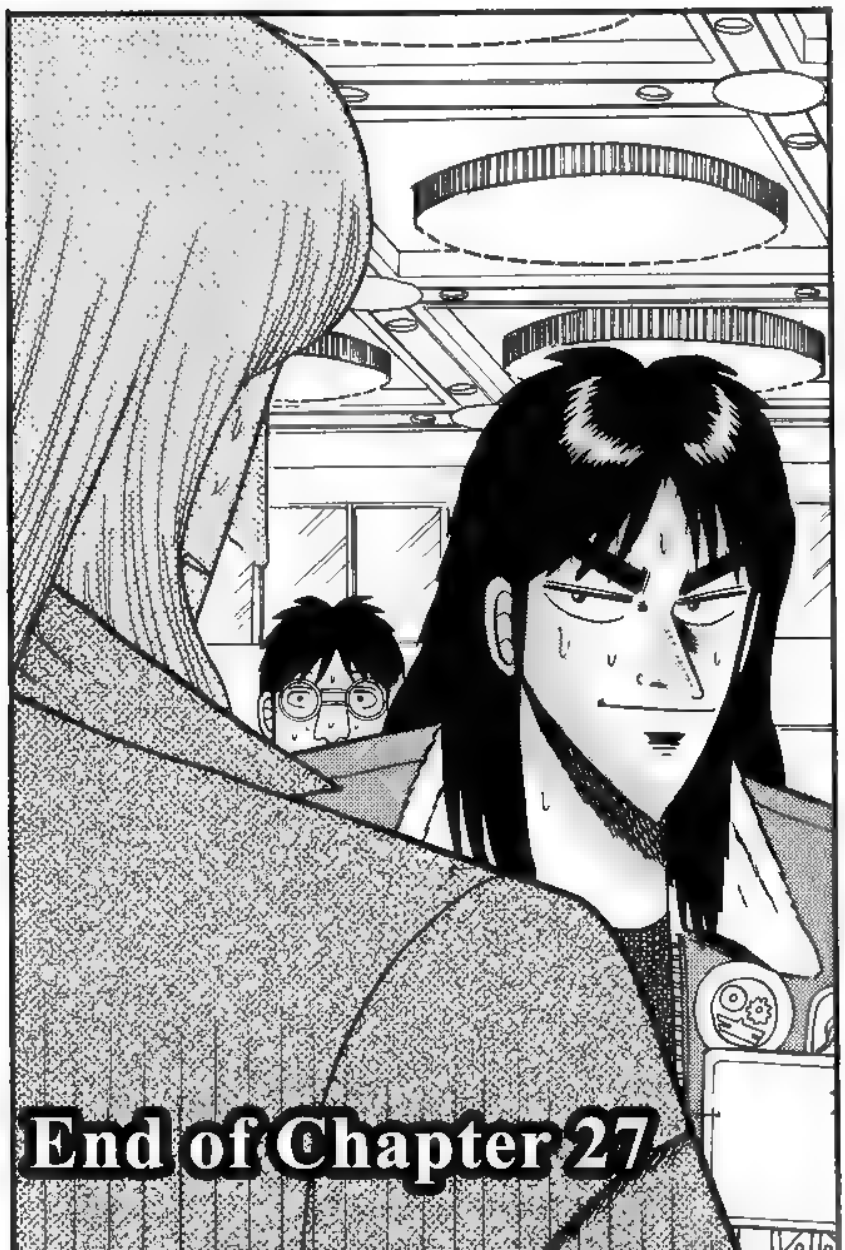

You don't even understand that you're swimming against the current.
You're the classic loser. You don't know the first thing about gambling...!
That's the situation you're in now.
...80% or 90% of the time you lose again.
If you let yourself get carried away while gambling ...


: Hmph
Kaiji-san...
Falling, is it...?
This match is your last act. The curtain's already falling...!



All that matters...
is that a gap remains...

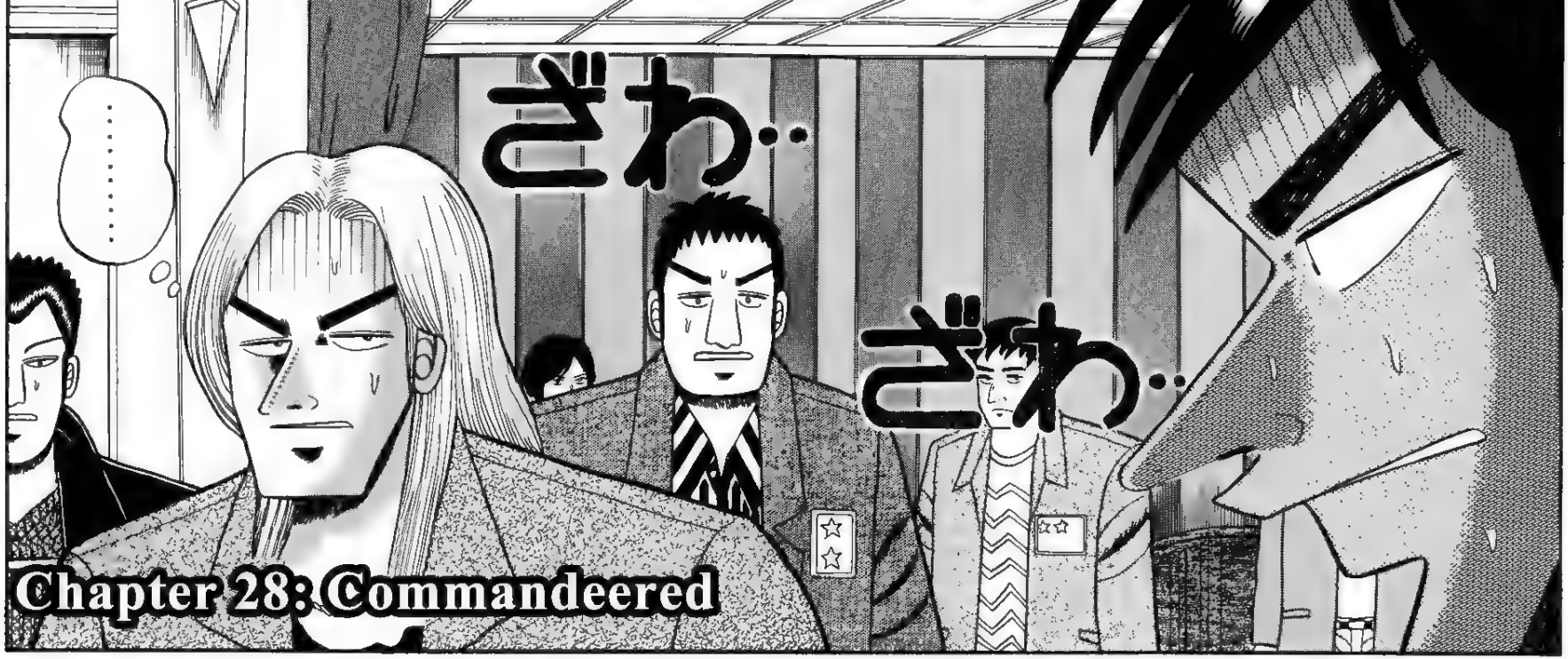
That's all that I need...!!



End of Chapter 27

SWOOSH

There had been a few twists along the way...
...but the match for 3 stars, between Kaij and Kitami...
...was finally set to begin!



Chapter 28: Commandeered

The time had come...
Kaiji vs. Kitami...!!

...ready to take them into custody immediately ...
...if Kaiji should lose...
They were sticking close to Ando and Furuhata...

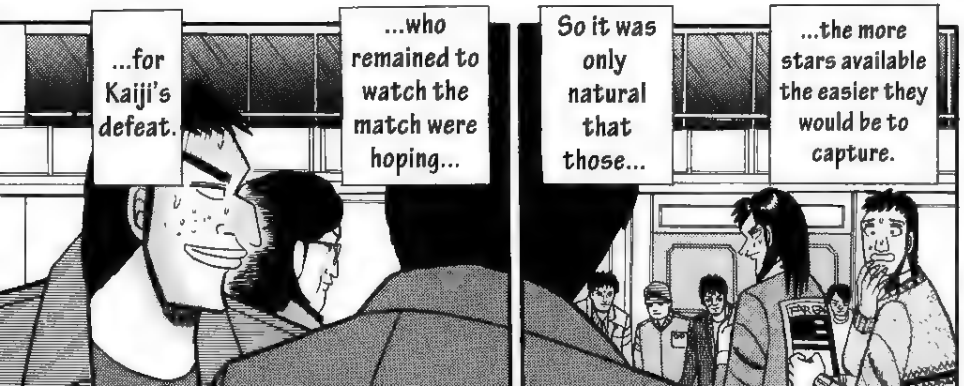
Ahh ...!
...were the blacksuits !

What are they doing ...?
K-Kaiji -san...!
...like grim reapers after the scent of death.

Hurry up and die ...
But ...
They're just vultures. They'll leave once I win...
Huh ...?
Hurry up and lose ...
Lose ...
Lose ...
... beckoning him to the depths.
He heard them...
Kaiji wasn't imagining them.
Those voices ...
.....
Kaiji-san...
Ah ...

ざわ
ざわ…
ざわ…
The voices of the dead …!

Naturally …
…leaving more stars for the rest of them.
If they lost that would be 3 new faces sent to the other room….
…for Kaiji and his friends to lose.
… were hoping …


…for Kaiji's defeat.
…who remained to watch the match were hoping…
So it was only natural that those…
…the more stars available the easier they would be to capture.

Most of the voices …
They're just trash …!

Don't mind them.
Kaiji-san…

…with only 1 or 2 stars…

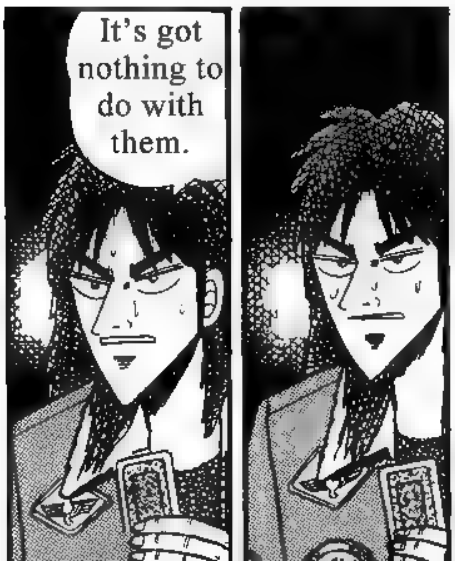
As they watched the big match unfold, these men…
…came from guys without enough stars.

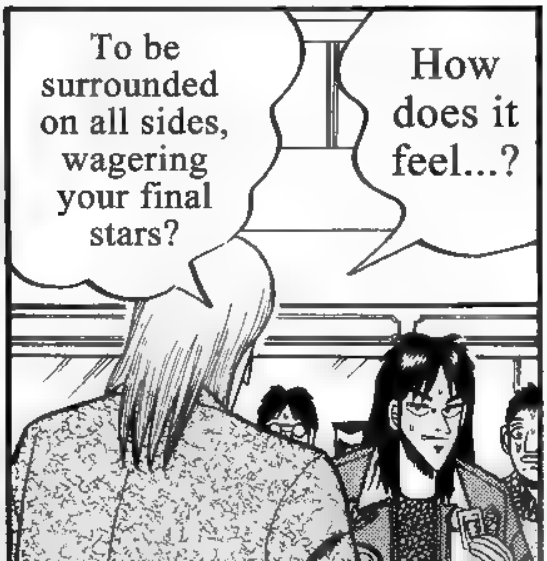
What are they doing …!?
W-What's happening …?
……

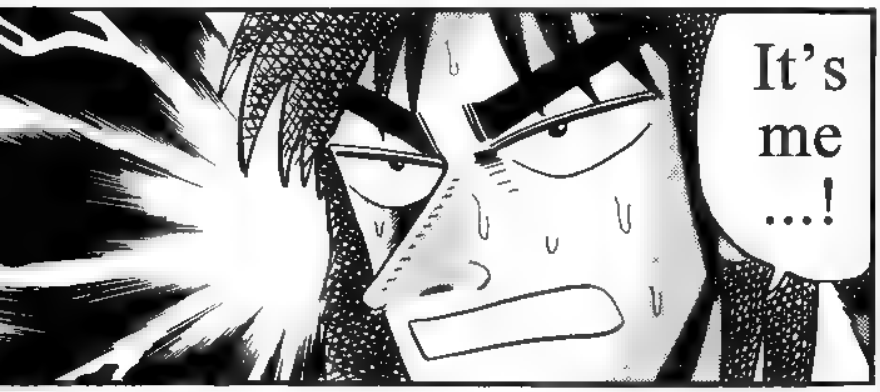
Watching matches ...
...watching other matches on the boat was forbidden.
According to the rules ...
Kaiji-san...
That was the reasoning behind forbidding it.
...the odds would be tipped unfairly in the onlooker's favor.
If the onlooker and the player were then to hold a match...
...could allow the onlookers to count other people's cards.
...and let them off with a wink and a nod ...
So for the most part, the supervisors pretended not to see it...
Of course, with so many people playing out on the floor at once...
...a fair chunk of them were busy counting cards.
That meant that out of the many players on the floor...
...it was impossible to completely stop everyone from watching.

...for the most part it was still impossible to crowd around the table and stare openly.
But, since watching matches was technically forbidden...
Some of them were doing so in order to guarantee a win...
...such as with Kaiji and his 'balance' plan.
...from a comfortable distance....
Instead, people watched the matches unfold...
This time the situation was different.
However...
...for later use.
...memorizing what cards were played...
Waiting for ruin...
Waiting for Kaiji and his friends to fail, and lose their final 3 stars...
They were only waiting....
They weren't counting cards...

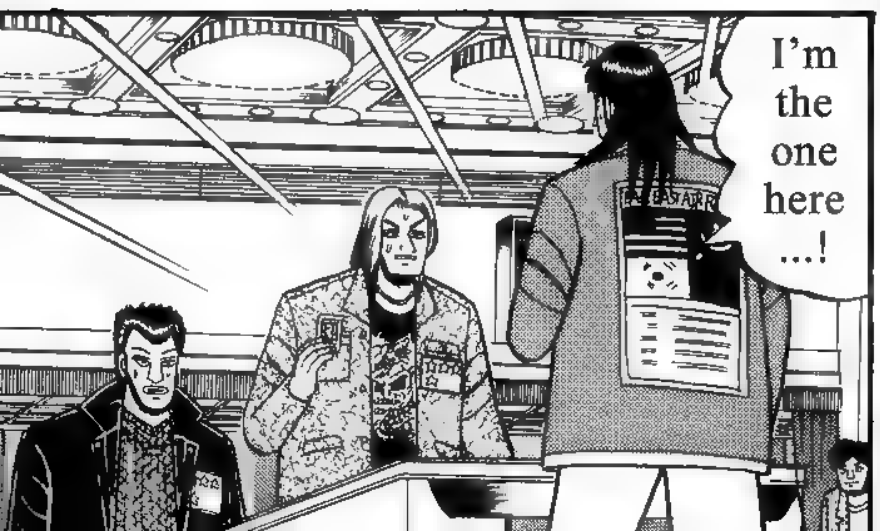
Waiting for the slaughter!!






It's me ...!

Huh ...?
It's got nothing to do with anyone else...!
AIR FORCE


I'm the one here ...!

It's me ...!

That's what's important ...!
Once I do something, I do it...
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

They don't change the facts ...!

Hehehe

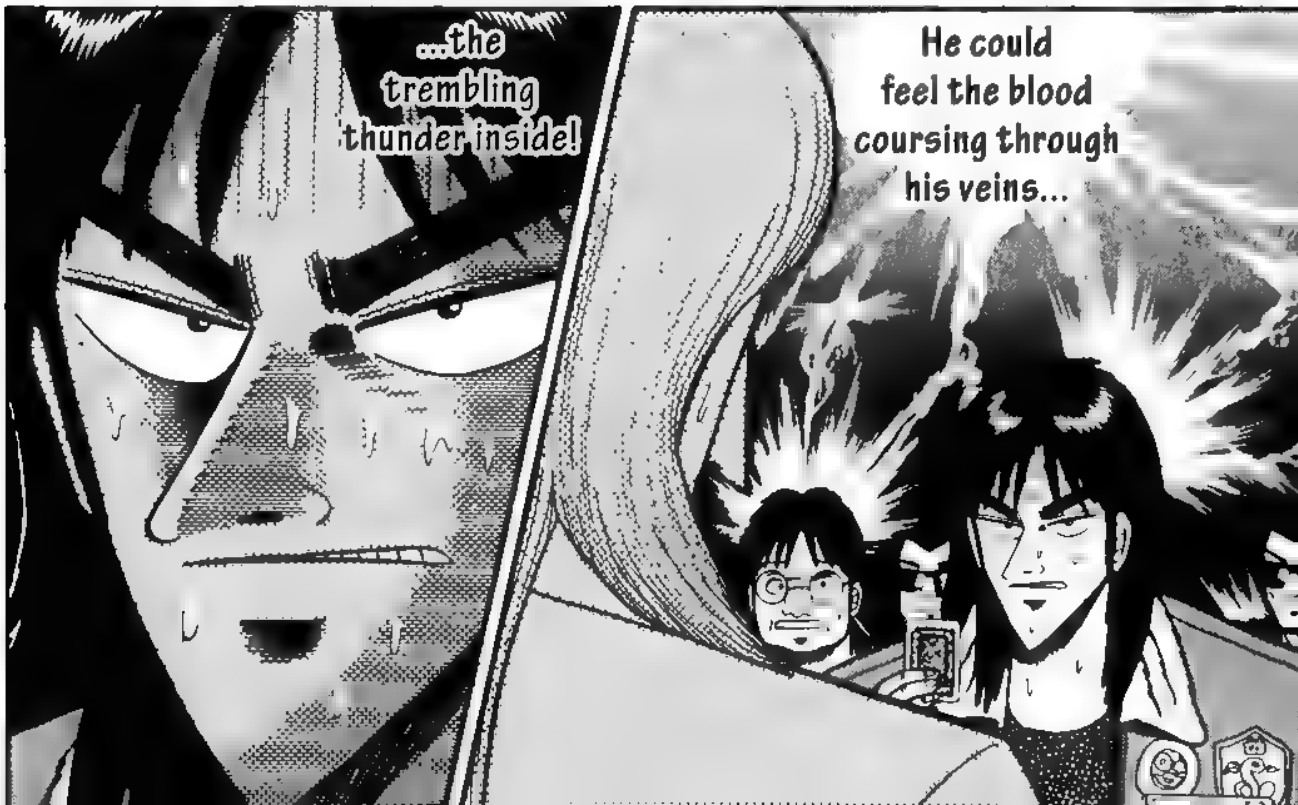
.....
Kaiji-san...

...but I can't help that now!
Maybe I was a bit slack-jawed...
It's such a simple idea...
...but I had to be pressed this far ... ... before I realized it.
Maybe I was late to the party, but I got it...
In the end, I got it...
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
...is my own strength!
The only strength I need to believe in...
...I need to listen to is my own voice.
The only voice ...
... listening to other people talk trash.
I don't need to waste time...

...and look for some other rock to sustain me...
If I start despising my own strength ...
The strength I hold while I stand here and talk to you.
Mine. Right here, right now...
Here and now ...
...then I've lost before I've even started.
...in other words, if I let myself be weak ...
...changing from a liquid into a gas.
At 100° water transforms into steam...
That same change ...
...I finally get it!
The boiling point.
.....

Looking back over the years ...
It's true ...
...was happening within Kaiji's heart.
To be this strong, and true...
That moment of change, of becoming "somebody" ...
Kaiji had never experienced this before ...
The sense ...
The reality of his own existence ...
He had never felt it before ...

...of being alive!


...the trembling thunder inside!
He could feel the blood coursing through his veins...

Check
...!
FAR EA
FORCE

End of Chapter 28

ざわ ざわ..
.....

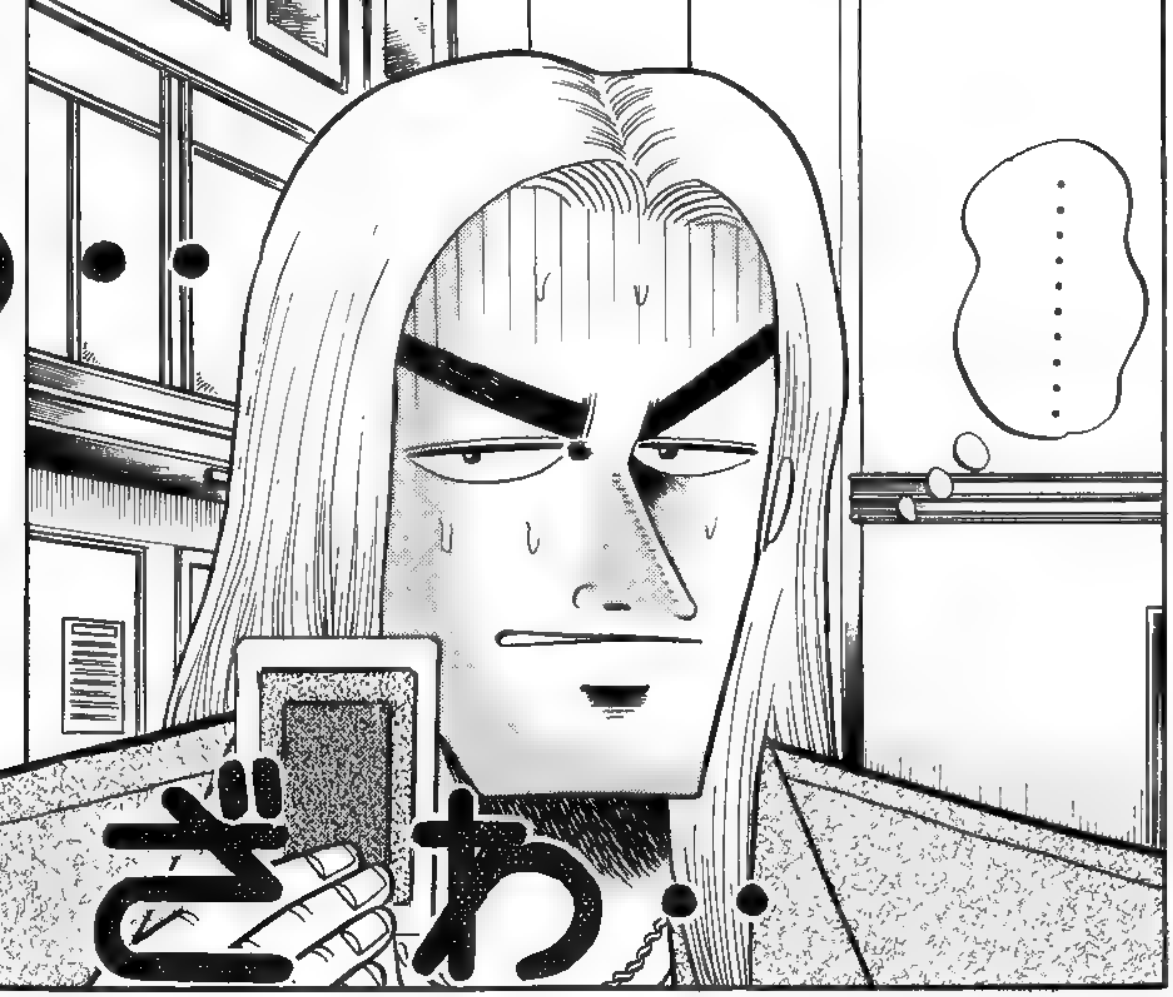
He's just another textbook, hothead loser...!

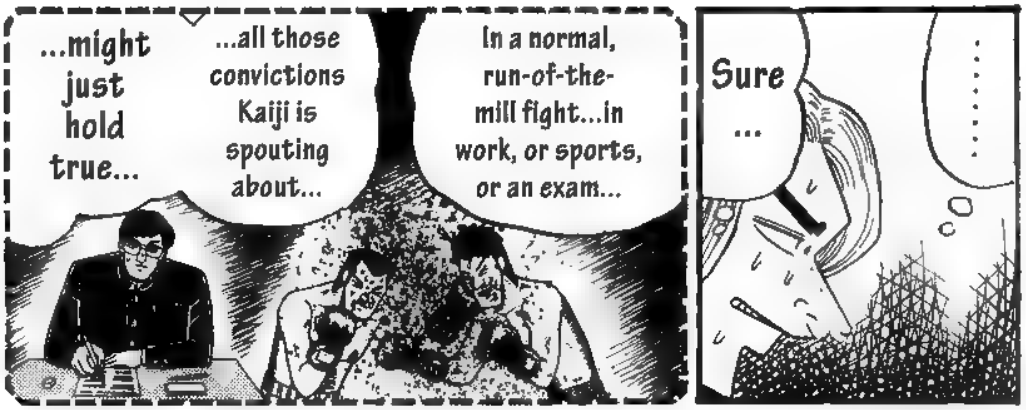
What a waste of time...!

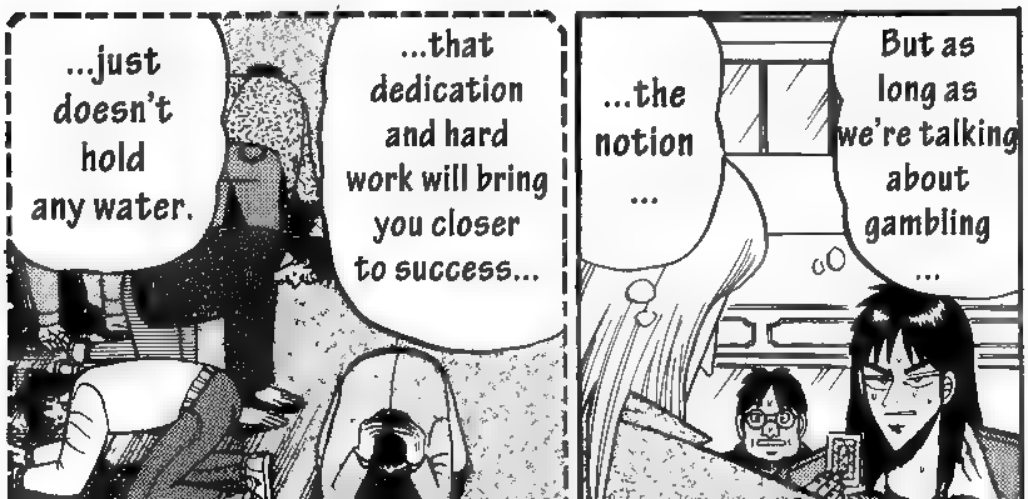
He still doesn't get it...!

What does he know...!?
"Believing in my own strength"... Please...!

You can stand here and spout all the stupid platitudes you like...
...but you don't know a thing about gambling.



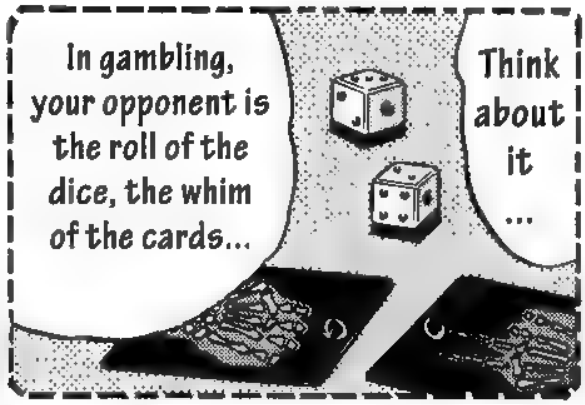

...might just hold true...
...all those convictions Kaiji is spouting about...
In a normal, run-of-the-mill fight...in work, or sports, or an exam...
Sure ...
.....


...just doesn't hold any water.
...that dedication and hard work will bring you closer to success...
...the notion ...
But as long as we're talking about gambling ...

You're just a worthless, no-good clown...!

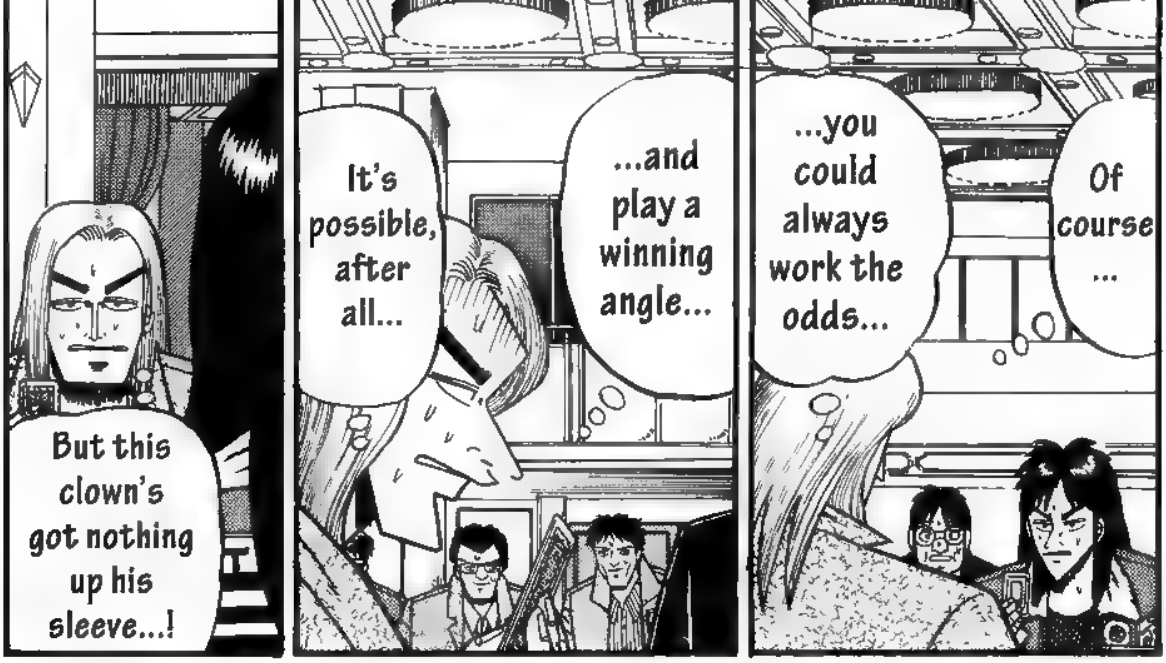
Chapter 29: Shortcomings

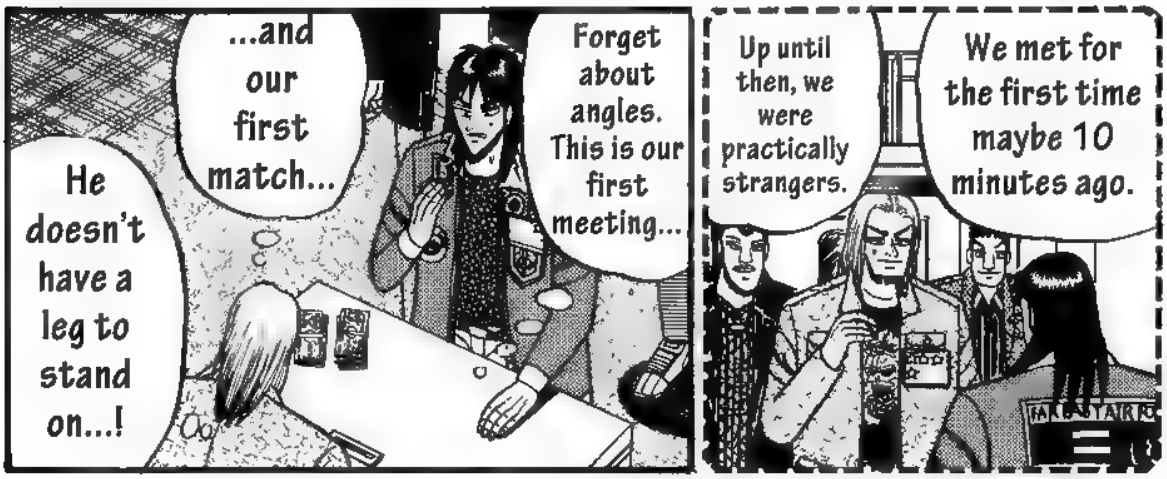
...what good will a fighting spirit do you?
So in matters of chance ...


In gambling, your opponent is the roll of the dice, the whim of the cards...
Think about it ...

In a game of chance, you lose when you lose...
Emotions don't count.

...then he's just a grade-A moron...
If he really believes what he says...
... stumbling out in left field.

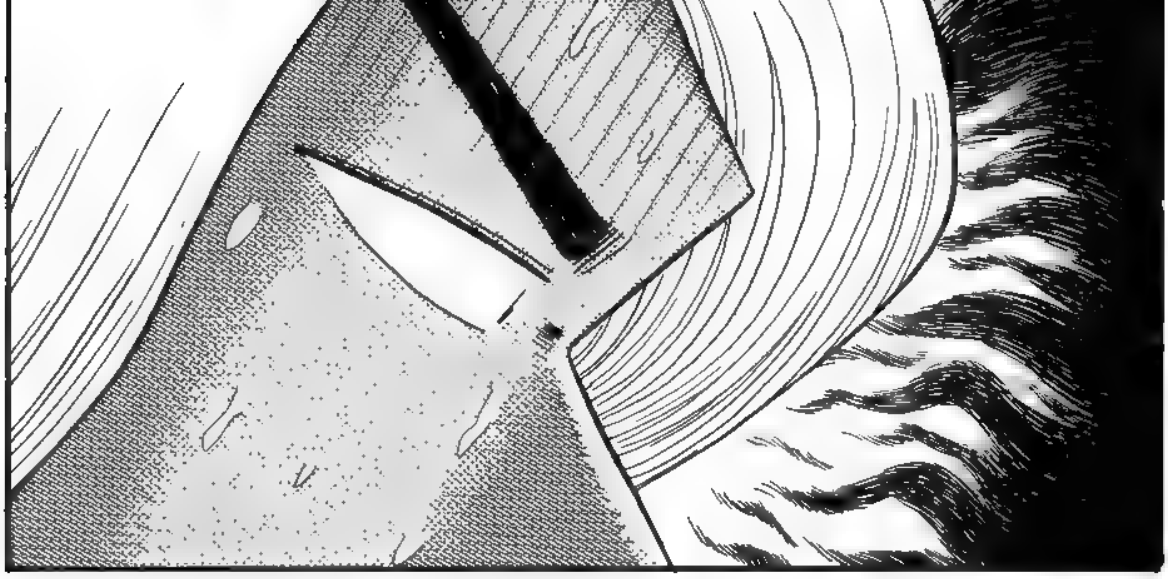

But this clown's got nothing up his sleeve...!
It's possible, after all...
...and play a winning angle...
...you could always work the odds...
Of course ...


He doesn't have a leg to stand on...!
...and our first match...
Forget about angles. This is our first meeting...
Up until then, we were practically strangers.
We met for the first time maybe 10 minutes ago.

This is all up to chance ...
He doesn't have any hook to work from...
He's completely in the dark.
He can't know what we're holding, or how many. It's our first match...
...to see what cards we've played or to count them.
Obviously he hasn't had any chance...

Victory will be mine...!
Which means...
Ahh ...!
Hehehe
Set ...!
This deadbeat ...
...is on a losing spiral.
Luck can't save him now...!
This day belongs to me ...!
Once I win this last match...
...I'll call it quits ...
...and get rid of my extra cards!

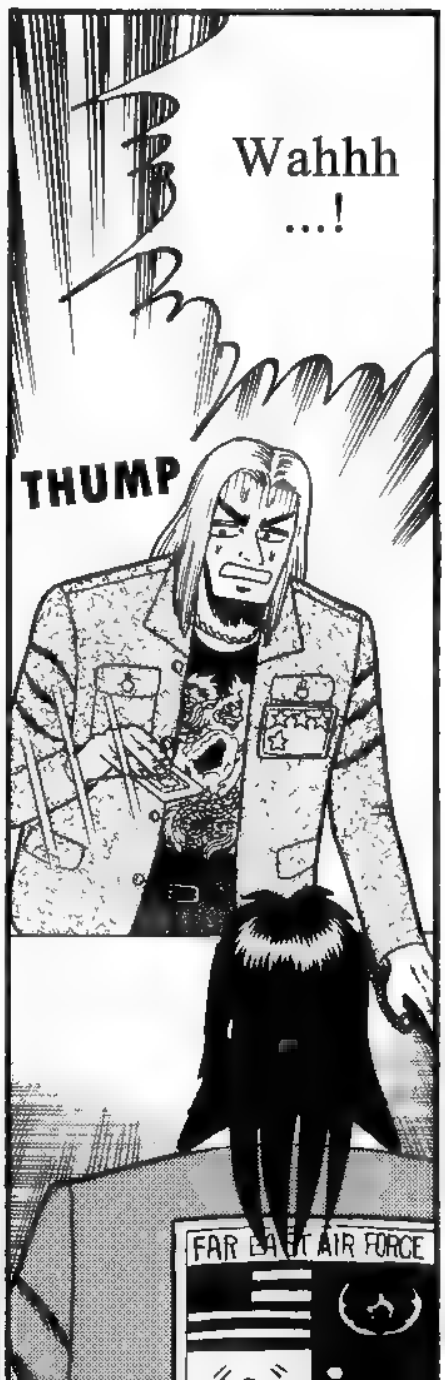
Ngh
...!
FAR EAST AIR FORCE



Ref...! Wait a second ...!
He pulled back...!

Is that allowed ...!?

We already called set...!
Can he still pull back at this stage...!?
Ref ...!


Wahhh ...!
THUMP
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

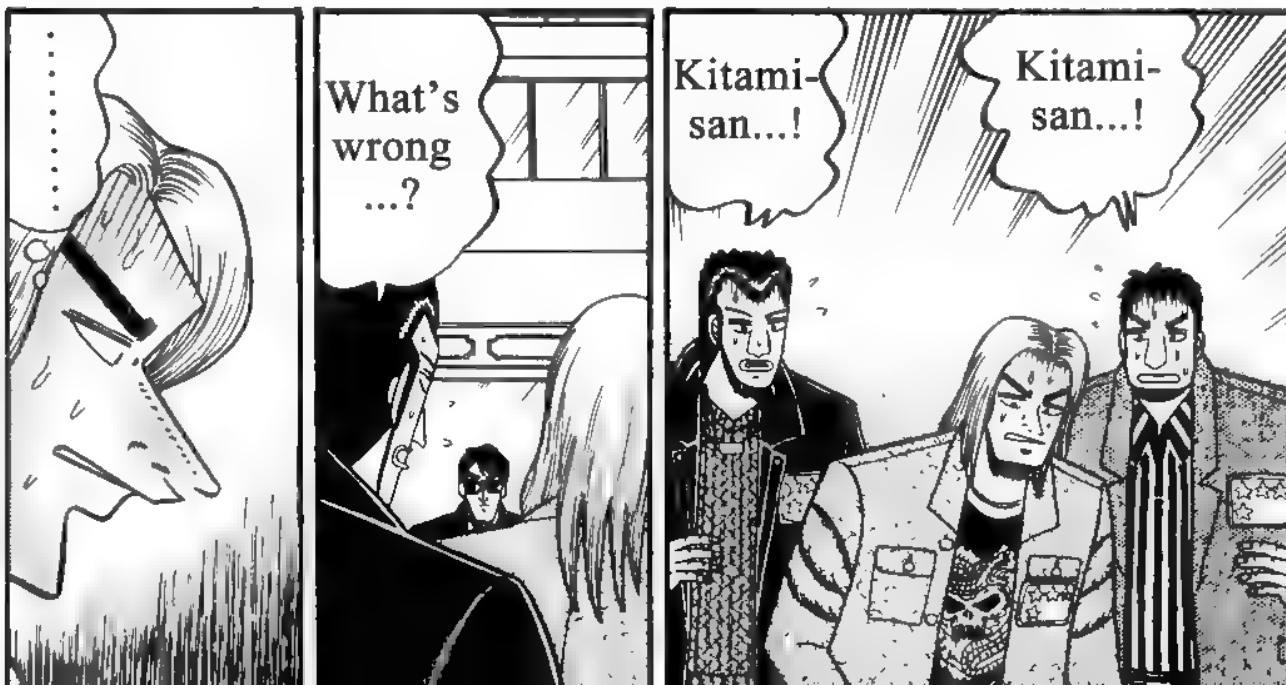
But ...!
Once you've called set, it's too late to pull back.

No, it's not allowed ...

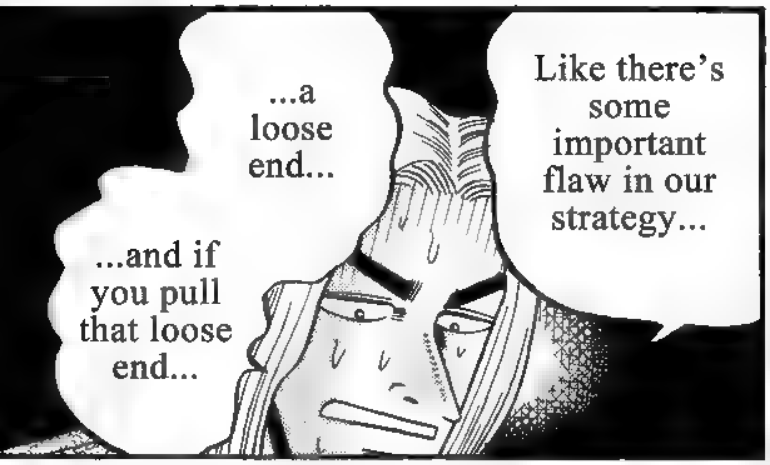
.....

Ahh ...!
...you have to play the card.
Once you've called set...
It's not like I'm planning to call off the match...
Come on, who cares ...!
Changing cards at this point is not allowed either.
Put it down ...!
Kitami, you heard the man ...!
Wahh ...!
Put it down ...!
Put the card down ...!
Ngh ...
.....

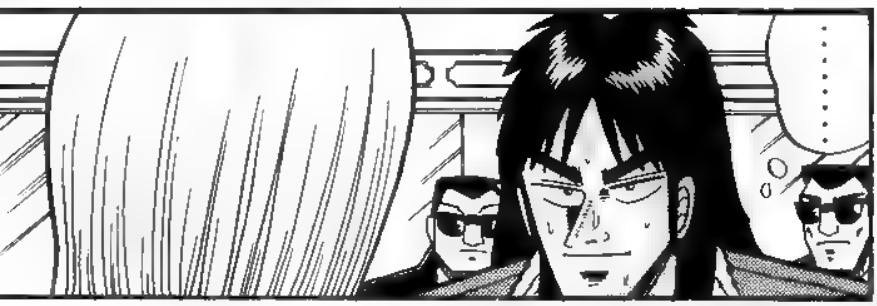
Ngh
...


.....
What's wrong ...?
Kitami-san...!
Kitami-san...!

I don't know ...


...a loose end...
Like there's some important flaw in our strategy...
...and if you pull that loose end...

...but suddenly I got a bad feeling about this ....
I just don't know...


.....

Some kind of hunch...
...the whole entire thing will come falling apart.

Hehehe

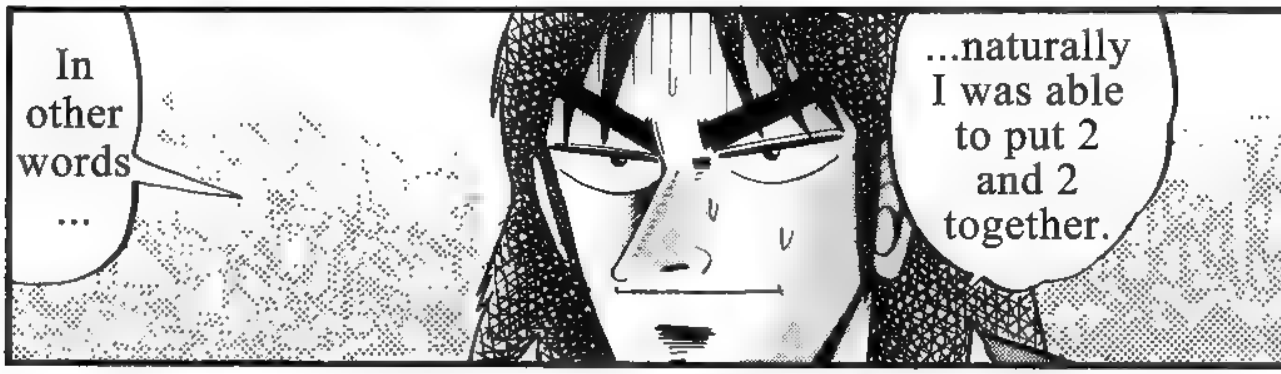
Kitami ...
That's what they call intuition ...
In the beginning ...
The very beginning ...
Kitami... don't you remember ...?
Ngh ...
There's a loose end...!
Just like you said...
You're right...
... you gave some conditions ...
...for a match ...
...and asked us...
When you first showed your face ...
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
.....
ざわざわ
A big loose end...

That's right.
Your final match ...?
... against you?
After all, what could be more fitting than making our final match...
That was fatal...
Whether I win or lose, we head upstairs.
After our match I'm done.
... ?
.....
Sharing all that information was a big mistake...
You let your guard down.
But actually, you were convinced you would win.
... there's one more.
But ...
That was the first loose end.

It may not have seemed very noticeable at first...
... without any hesitation ...
You pulled out a single card...
The second ...
...was when we first started the match.
.....
...but that single action said more than you know.
...means you had already decided on which card to play.
The three of you were already in consensus.
...just by carelessly pulling out the first card you laid hands on.
The fact that you were able to pull it out like so...
Each of us is playing as a team of 3...
In your final match there's no way you'd be allowed to choose the final card all on your own...

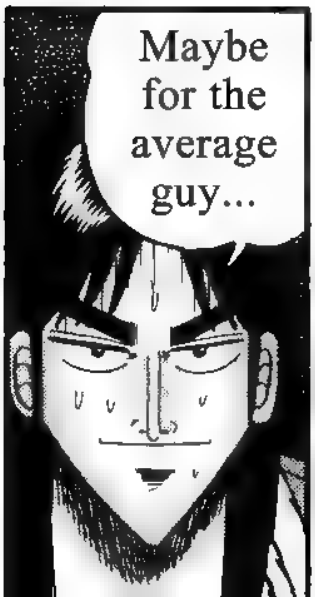
Once I knew that much...
...along with this being your "last match," were key...

That consensus ...


In other words ...
...naturally I was able to put 2 and 2 together.

……
ざわ…
ざわ…

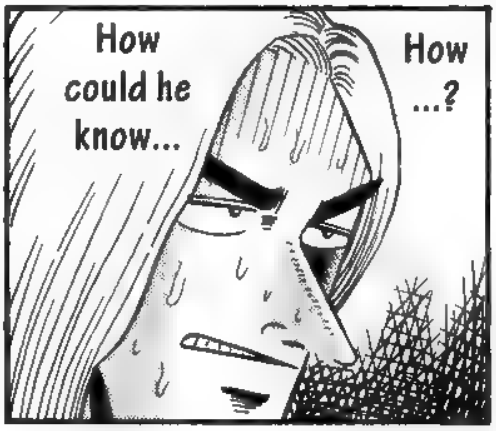
...what card the paper group would play in their final match.
I was able to figure out...


Maybe for the average guy...

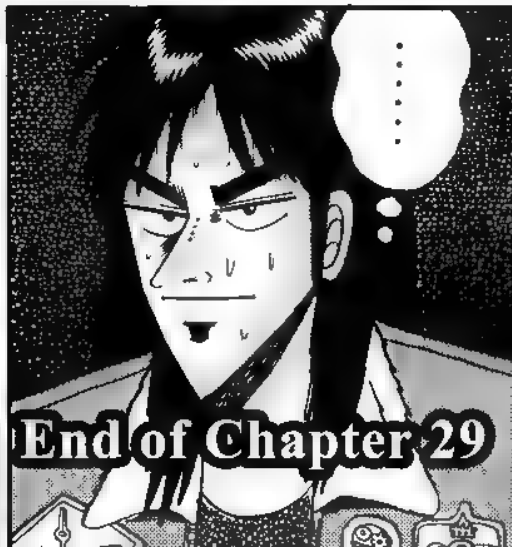
Hmph
That's impossible ...!

Kitami ...
...it's not impossible for me.
...to figure what card you'd play.
...it might just sound impossible ...
But ...
Didn't you say it yourself?
You know what they say, great minds think alike...
We both thought up the exact same strategy to buy cards.
.....
We're "two of a kind."
I know which 1 of your cards is extra...!
So I know ...

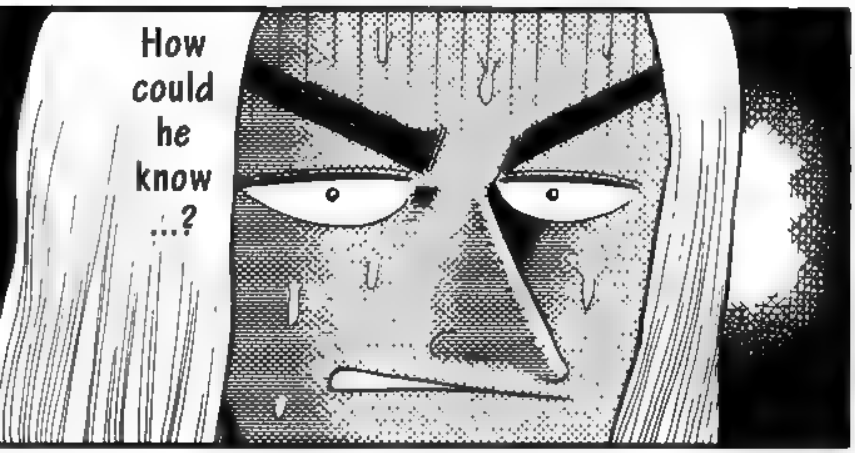
...Impossible!

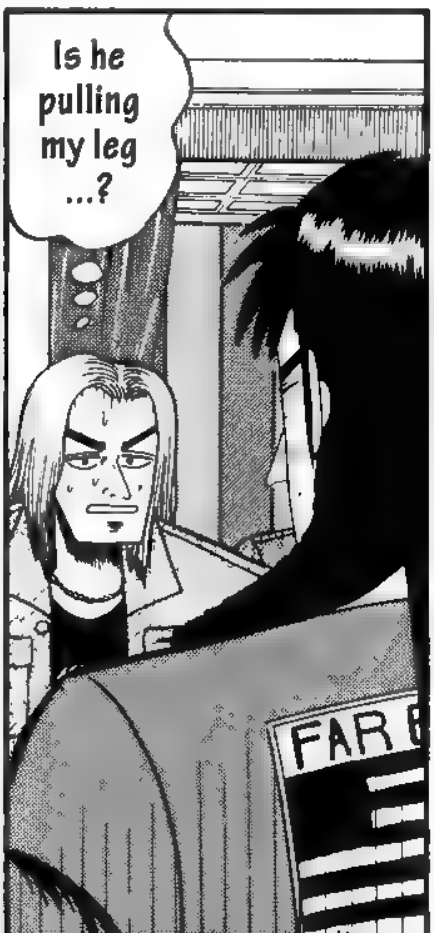


...that we have an extra card!?



……
ざわ‥
ざわ‥


How could he know ...?


Is he pulling my leg ...?
FAR

... that this card was extra?
How could he possibly know ...

.....
Chapter 30: Harvest Time

What were the three of us planning to do ...?

... what were we planning to do?

Assuming we had pulled off our winning streak... afterwards...

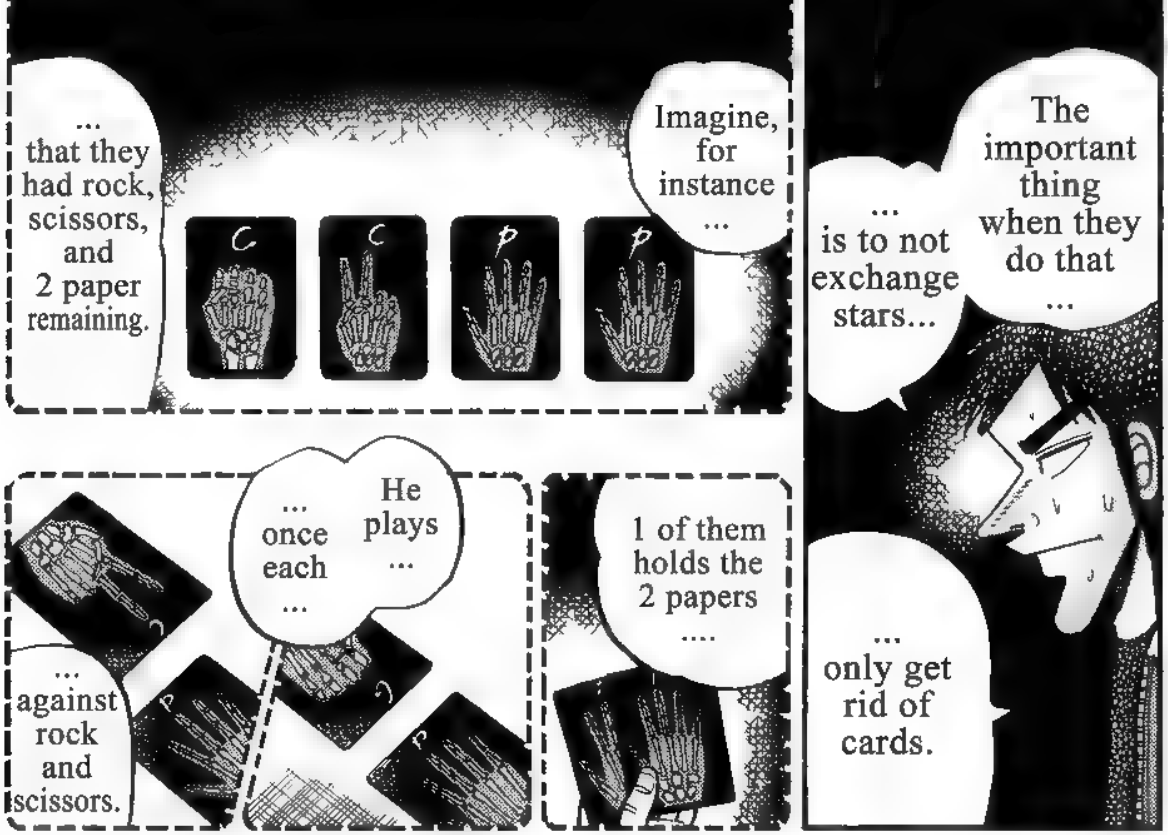
K-Kaiji-san ...

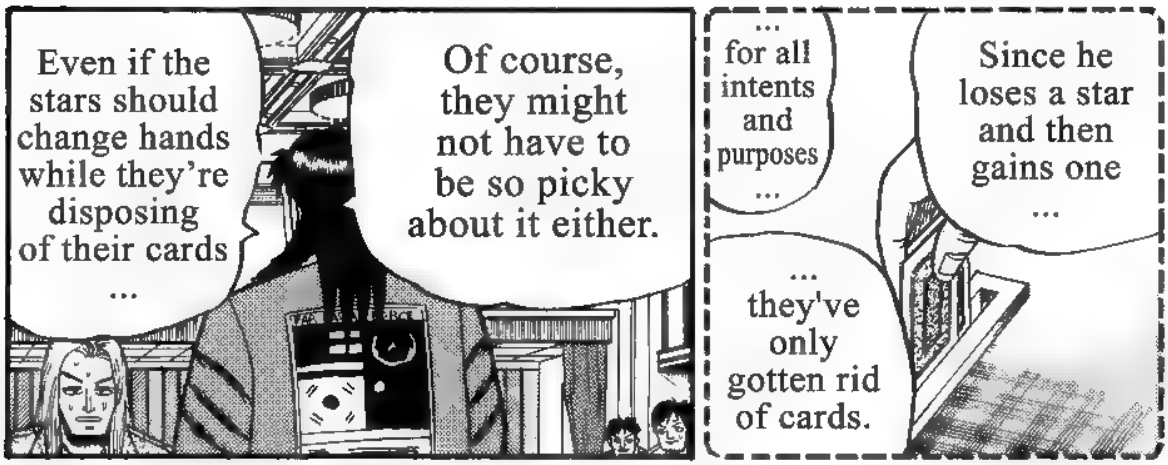
.....

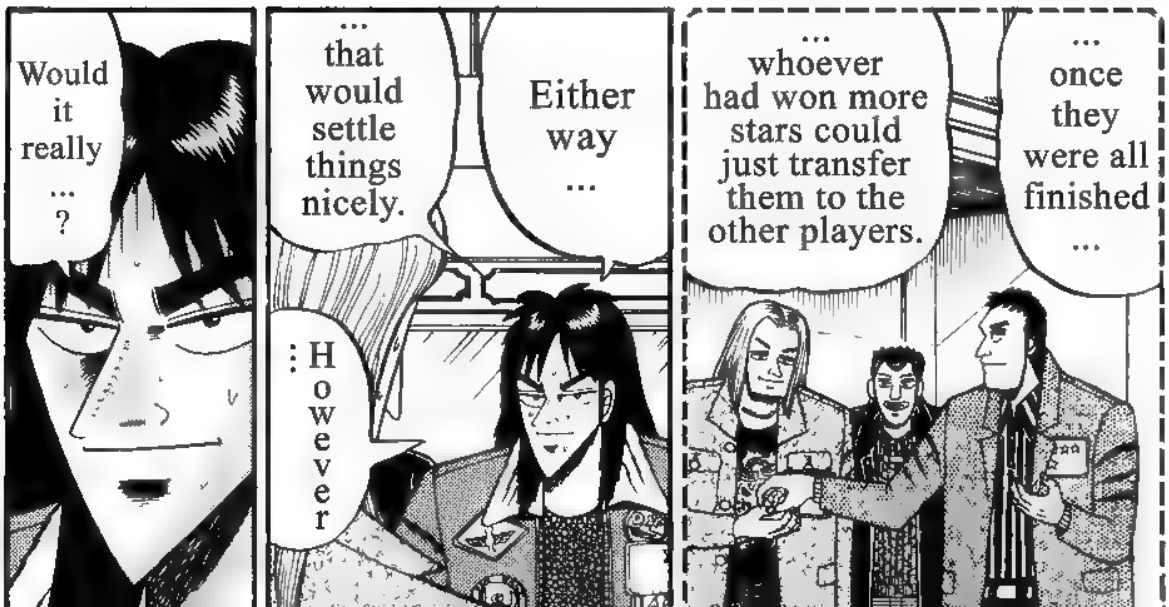
Furuhata...
What do you mean, "extra" ...?

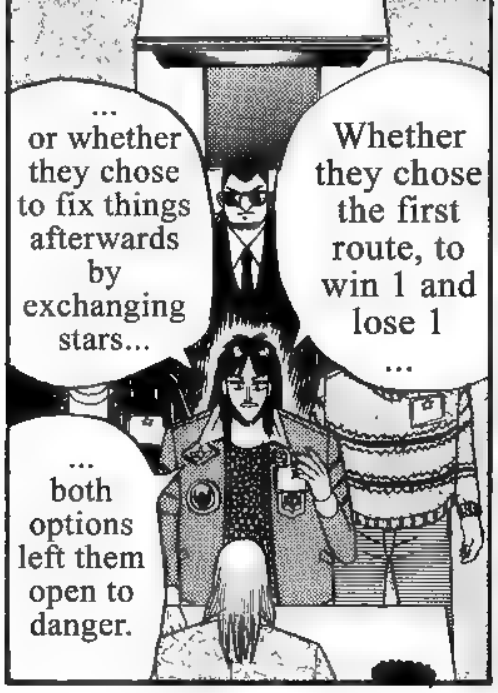
What are you saying ...?

What were we planning to do ...?
ざわ
……
Right ... ?
... or rather, get rid of our extra cards ...
So we were going to have balance out the numbers ...
After we had won enough we weren't going to fight anymore ...
Well ...
In other words ...
He told us that this was going to be his last match ...
Just like Kitami.
……
... they were planning on "balancing out" their own numbers.
... after this match was over ...


... that they had rock, scissors, and 2 paper remaining.
Imagine, for instance ...
C
C
P
P
... is to not exchange stars...
The important thing when they do that ...
... only get rid of cards.
... against rock and scissors.
... once each ...
He plays ...
1 of them holds the 2 papers ....


Even if the stars should change hands while they're disposing of their cards ...
Of course, they might not have to be so picky about it either.
... for all intents and purposes ...
... they've only gotten rid of cards.
Since he loses a star and then gains one ...


Would it really ... ?
... that would settle things nicely.
However ...
Either way ...
... whoever had won more stars could just transfer them to the other players.
... once they were all finished ...


Whether they chose the first route, to win 1 and lose 1 ...
... or whether they chose to fix things afterwards by exchanging stars...
... both options left them open to danger.

I don't think so ...!

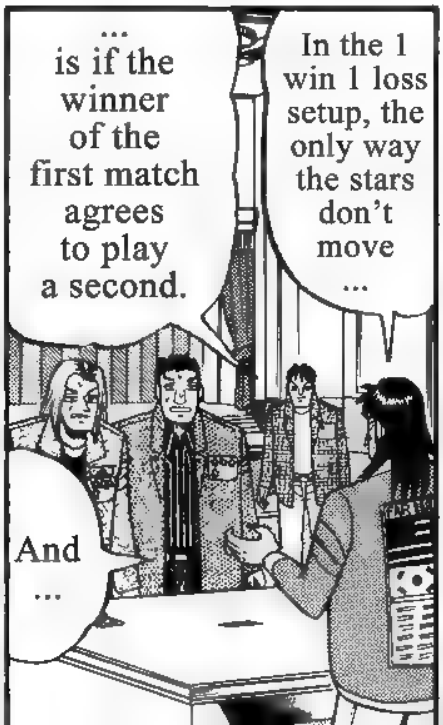
Hmph
.....
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

They only reason they joined together is to look out for their own skins.

... they've only just met tonight.
Even if they call themselves friends ...

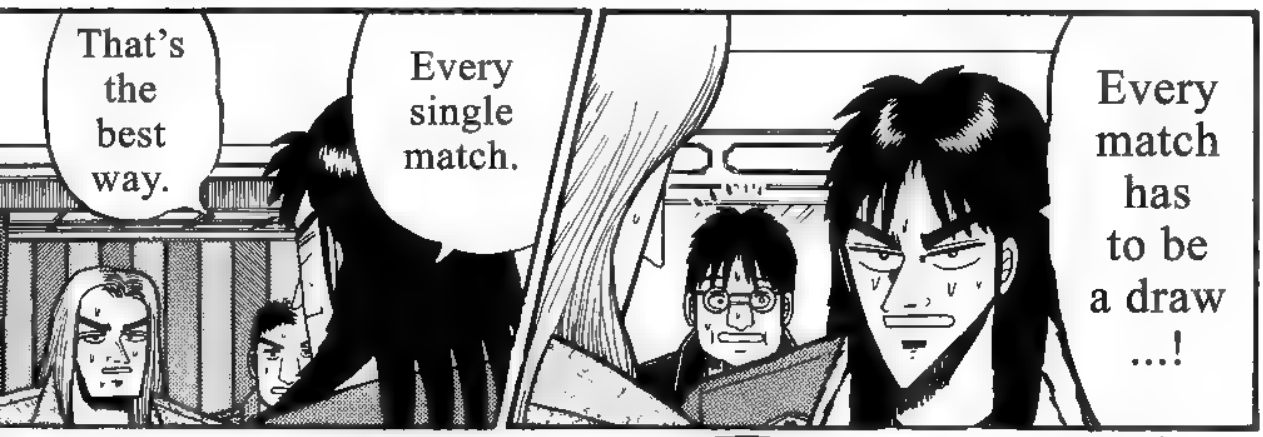
Think about it.
.....

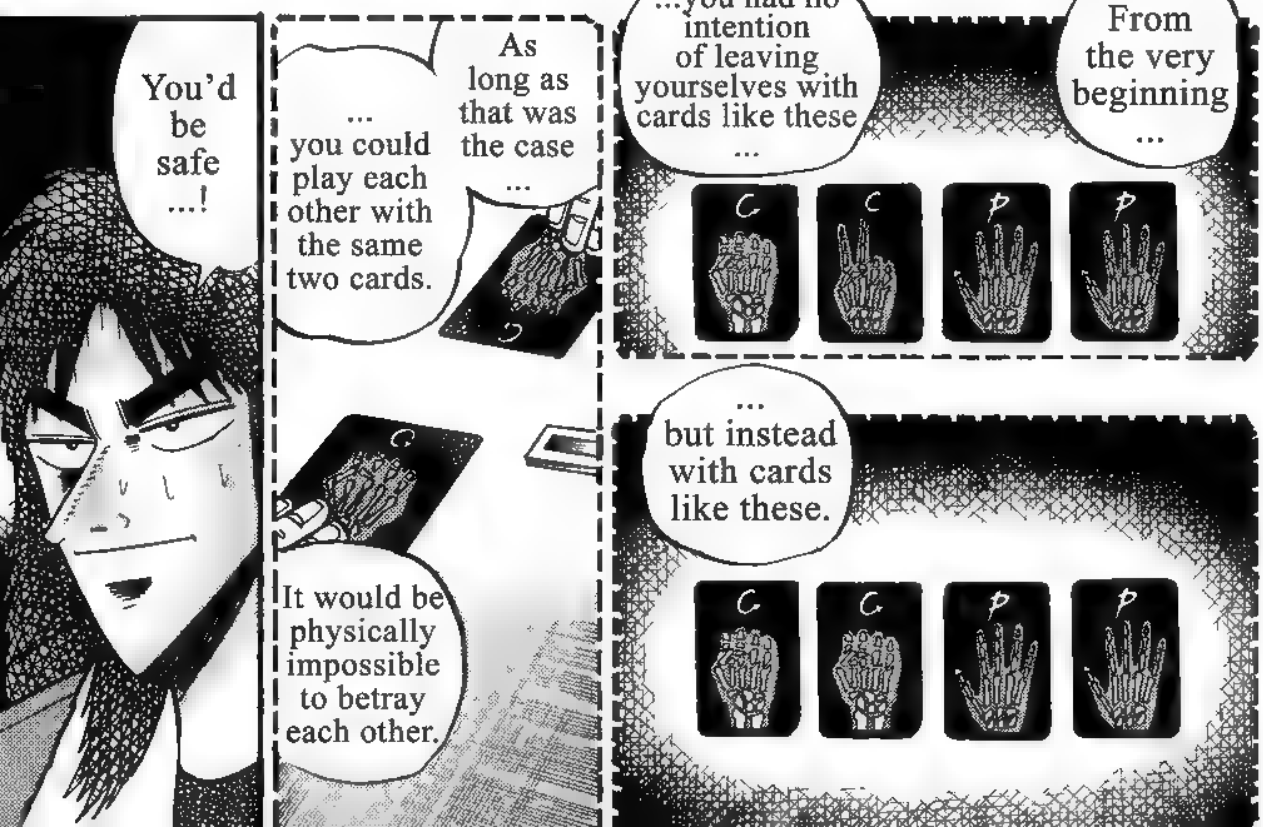
... that's entirely ridiculous.
... as far as the idea of just exchanging stars afterwards goes...
Once the matches are over ...


... is if the winner of the first match agrees to play a second.
In the 1 win 1 loss setup, the only way the stars don't move ...
And ...

Every one of them is suspicious of the other two.
To be blunt about it ...
They don't have a shred of trust between them.

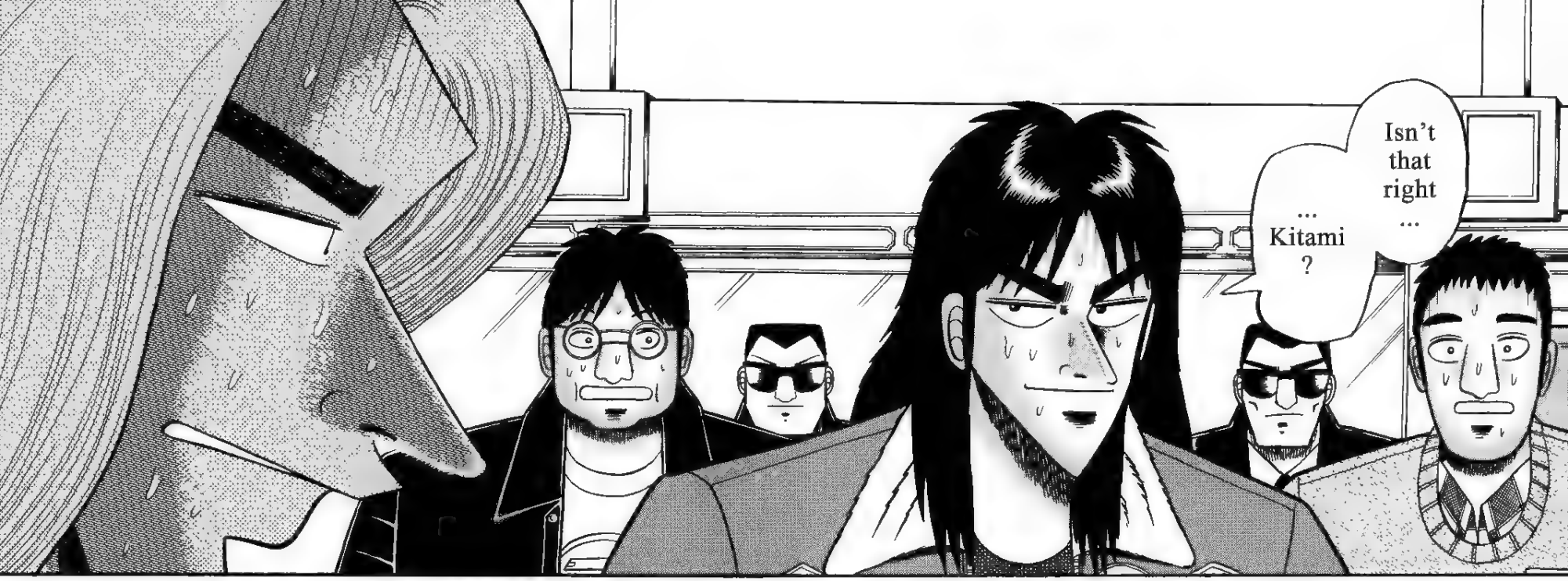
... 1 way.
You 3 just aren't that close...
Which only leaves ...
It's all armchair strategy ...
.....
... if the winner plays dumb, it's game over.


That's the best way.
Every single match.
Every match has to be a draw ...!


You'd be safe ...!
... you could play each other with the same two cards.
As long as that was the case ...
It would be physically impossible to betray each other.
...you had no intention of leaving yourselves with cards like these ...
From the very beginning ...
... but instead with cards like these.

...
let's say, while they were still busy gathering paper cards.
Probably, he realized it at an early stage ...
...
I knew he must have landed on this method to take care of the cards.
Considering how cautious Kitami there is ...
...down the middle, matching each other paper for paper.
Meaning:
As long as they were even they could split the cards ...
...they probably focused on gathering their cards evenly.
Once he realized it ...
...now that all is said and done ...
...they've been left with a single oddball card.
....somehow or other ...
However:
It's very simple ...
...their matches would be draws.
It hardly needs explaining ...

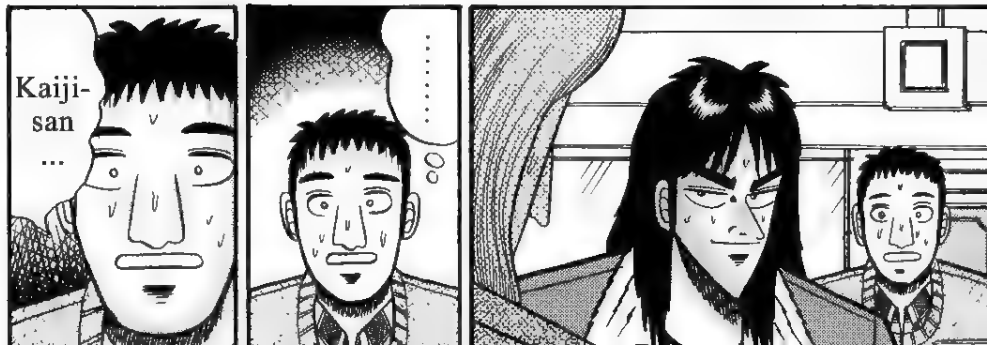
That's why he was so particular about this being ...
... his 1 final match.
They've been left with a single extra card.
... what I mean is extra.
When I say oddball ...
Just one match.
He only wanted to play a single match.
He can't play an even number of matches ...
... but he wouldn't listen to my proposal for two matches either ...
Obviously he refused a death match ...
That's why he was so short with me. Two matches wouldnt get him out of the situation he was in...
.....
Hmph
... they could dispose of all of the remaining cards through draws.
In other words ...
If he could play just one match that would leave him with an even number of cards.


Isn't that right ...
... Kitami ?

ざわ‥ざわ‥
……

Ngh ...
Kitami-san ...
……
ざわ‥
ざわ‥

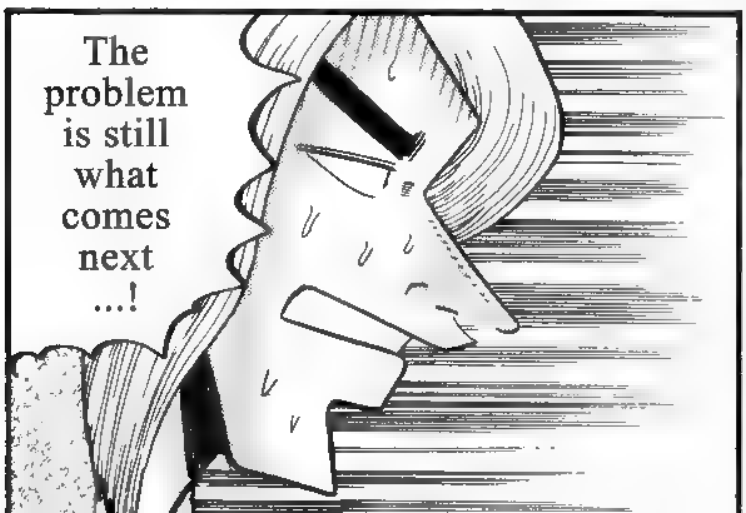
……
... but it definitely looks like something is up.
I can't hear them ...
I can't hear ...
I don't know ...
What are they saying ...?
WHISPER


Kaiji-san ...
……

It does look that way ...
.....
... just got his goose handed to him.
I think the 1 named Kitami ...
ざわ・・・

Get off it ...!
ざわ・ざわ・・

... that still doesn't matter !
Even if it's just like you said ...


The problem is still what comes next ...!

Who cares about what you're saying ...!?

...
is a
rock,
paper,
or
scissors!
The only
thing
that matters
is whether
that extra
card...

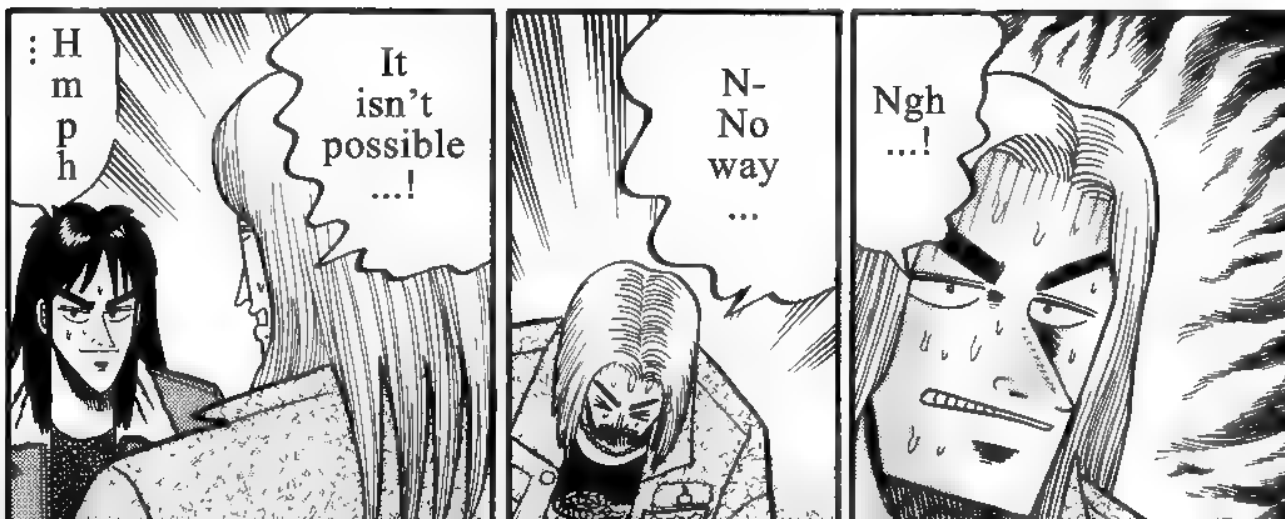
Heh
...
Everything
else is
just you
flapping
your
gums and
wasting
space...!

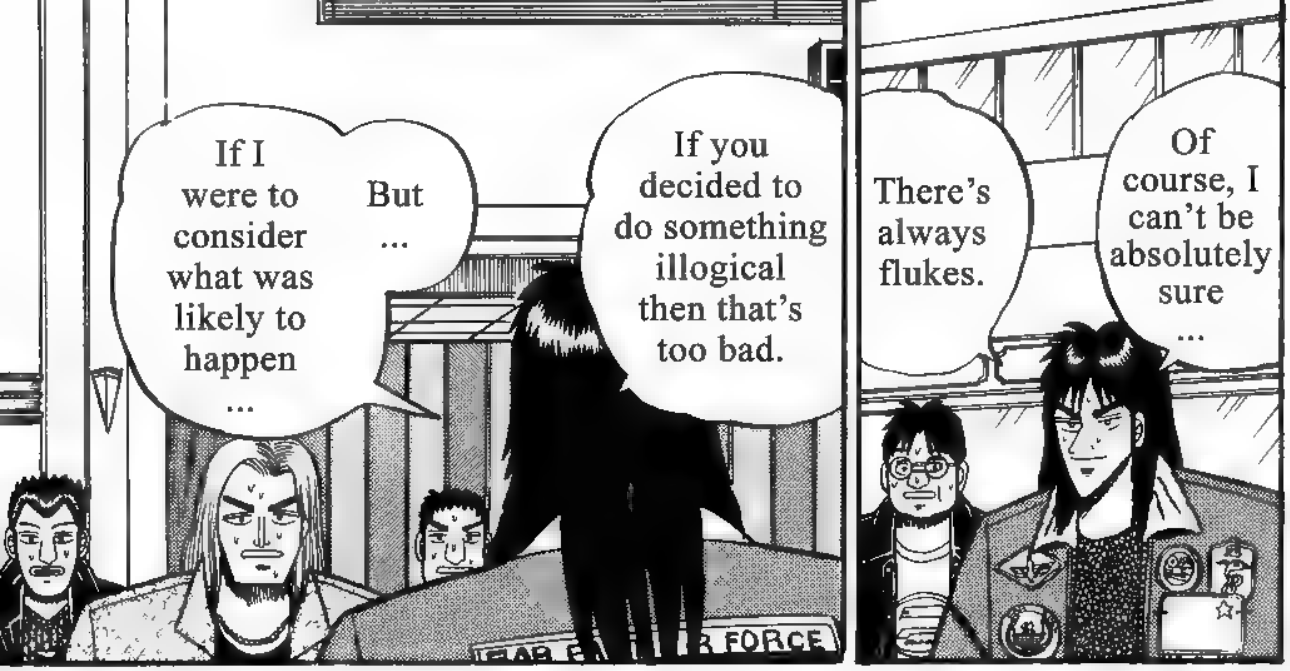
...
then this
has all
been
1 big
smokescreen.
If you
can't
tell
us that
...

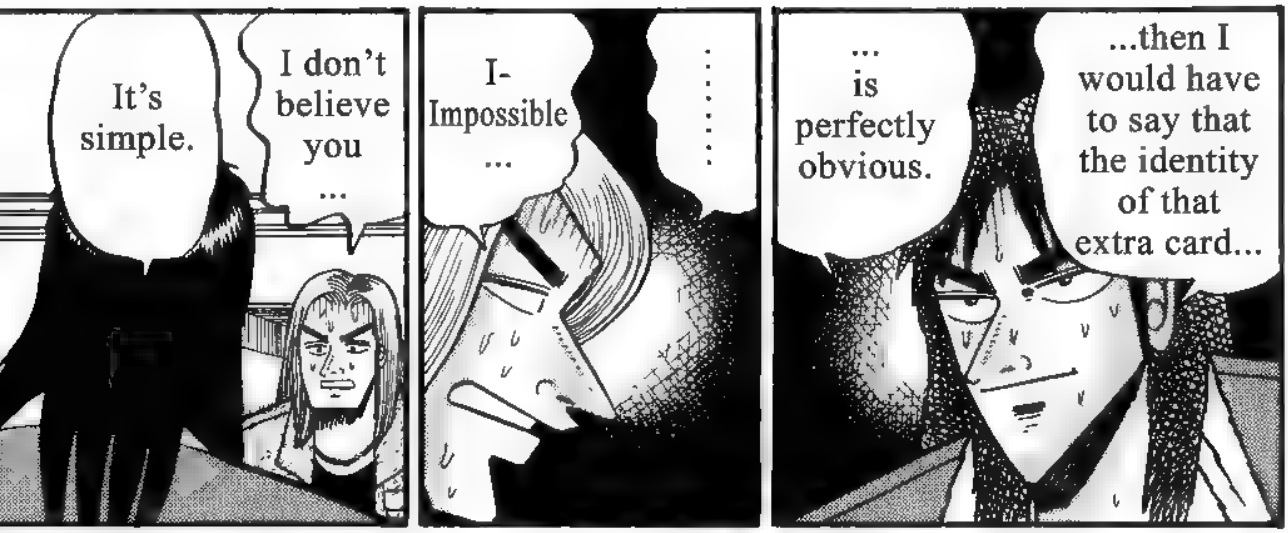
...
it's
too
obvious.

Kitami
...

...
what your extra card is!
It's already perfectly obvious ...

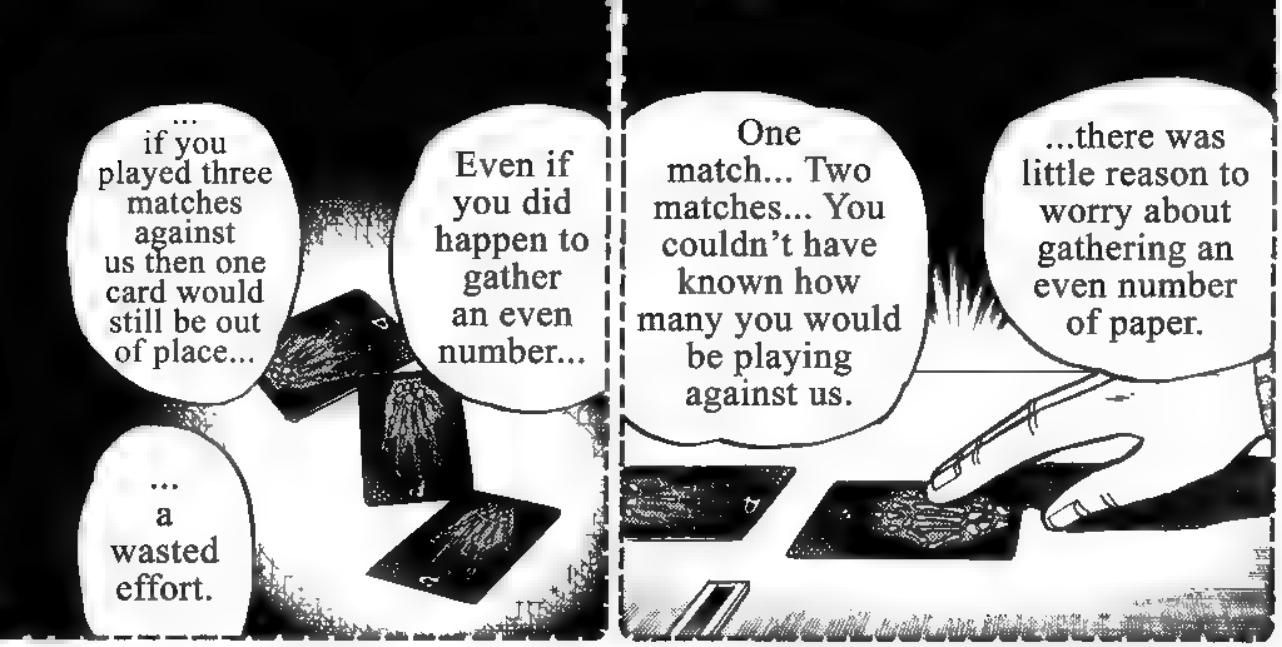

: Hmph
It isn't possible ...!
N-No way ...
Ngh ...!


If I were to consider what was likely to happen ...
But ...
If you decided to do something illogical then that's too bad.
There's always flukes.
Of course, I can't be absolutely sure ...


It's simple.
I don't believe you ...
I- Impossible ...
.....
... is perfectly obvious.
...then I would have to say that the identity of that extra card...

... early on, once you had already made an even number out of each.
... that you stopped buying rocks and scissors ...
The point was to even out the cards that you held in your hands.
Which must mean ...
... while you were still buying cards.
You had started planning for these draws ...

In other words ...
... chances are pretty high ...
... that you already had an even number of each.
That's obvious ...
You never needed to gather very many.
From the beginning, you were probably never very worried about evening them out.
The reason being, of course ...
How can I explain ... ?
Papers, on the other hand ...
Once our plan was ruined, you were waiting for us to panic ...
...and run out onto the floor as easy pickings with our rock cards.
That meant, obviously ...
... you were planning on taking us three out.


...
if you played three matches against us then one card would still be out of place...
Even if you did happen to gather an even number...
...
a wasted effort.
One match... Two matches... You couldn't have known how many you would be playing against us.
...there was little reason to worry about gathering an even number of paper.

You didn't waste your energy gathering an even amount ...!
So the paper cards, you left up to fate...

Ngh ...!
Isn't that right ...?
The oddball ...
In other words ...

End of Chapter 30

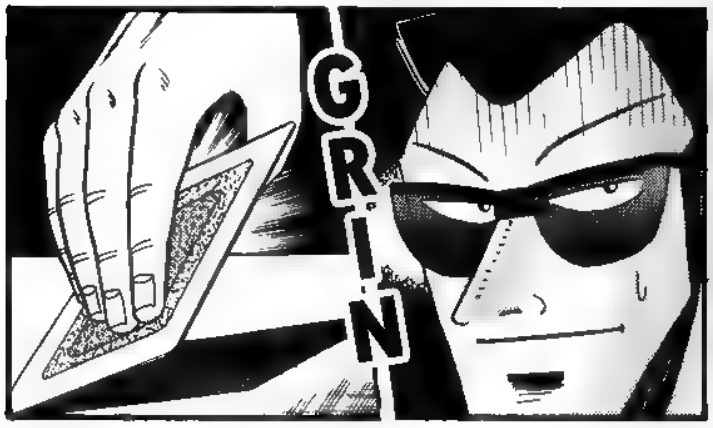
Kitami and Kaiji's 3 star match!!

Chapter 31: Onwards

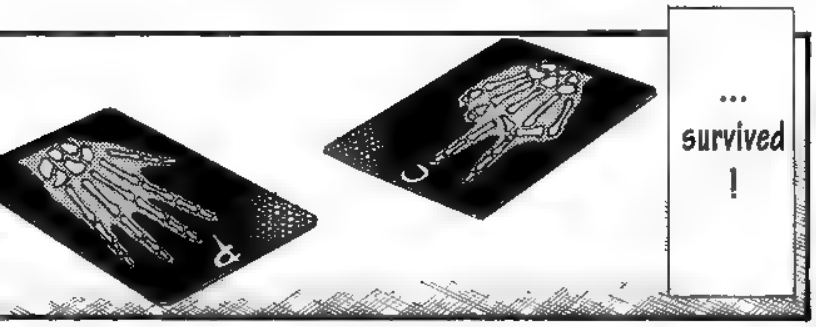
Ugh ...!
FAR EAST

SLUMP
ざわ・ざわ・・
ざわ・・
SWOOSH
Ah
・・・
・・・・・・
AIR EAST AIR FORCE

ざわ……


GRIN

THWAP



They had made a comeback ...!

... and told you not to buy.
I said we didn't want to draw attention to ourselves ...
Eh ... ?
That saved us.
...if 2 scissors and 4 paper were enough, or if we shouldn't buy more.

The fires of hope were burning ...!

...
when we play draws to get rid of our cards.
The truth is, I was already thinking ahead to the end of the night ...
That wasn't the real reason I stopped you ...
But I only said that for show.
That's the real reason I didn't think we should buy any more cards ...
...
that even number would be perfect for playing draws against each other.
If we stuck with 2 scissors and 4 paper ...
...
I'm not sure I would have made the connection so quick.
If you hadn't asked me that question ...
I'm guessing ...
...
when Kitami asked me for a final match.
I figured he probably had 1 extra card left over ...but...
And I remembered that conversation ...
Oh ...

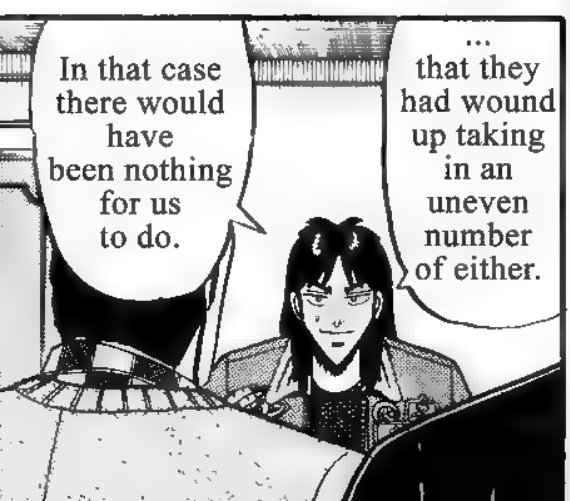
That's what makes a group so powerful.
If 1 member passes over a good move or plan...
Yep.
So I helped out without even knowing it ...
Oh ...
I probably wouldn't have....
Yeah ... !
That you had a plan ...?
But then, why didn't you just tell us what you were doing ...?
Ohh ...
... another member can still cover for them.
Hmph
... because you kept talking about chance.
I was so worried ...
The whole time ...
... you kept saying we just had to trust to luck.
... it might have failed.
If I told you guys what I was doing ...
I'm sorry, I couldn't help it ...
.....
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

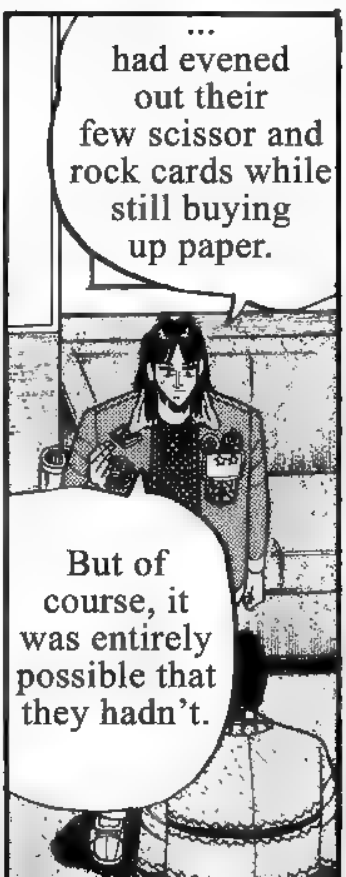
.... the two of you might have felt a little relieved.
If I had told you ...
And if that happened ...
He might not have been willing to give us a match.
... wouldn't have escaped Kitami's attention.
That relaxation ...
You might've started looking too relaxed.
... I know it would have shown in your faces.
In the end...he might have even found our own weakness.
... and think about it until he understood what was up.
The change would look suspicious ...
He's the cautious type.
... and he'd take a time-out ...
We were on thin ice there ...
It all would have been for nothing.
That would've been that ...
.....

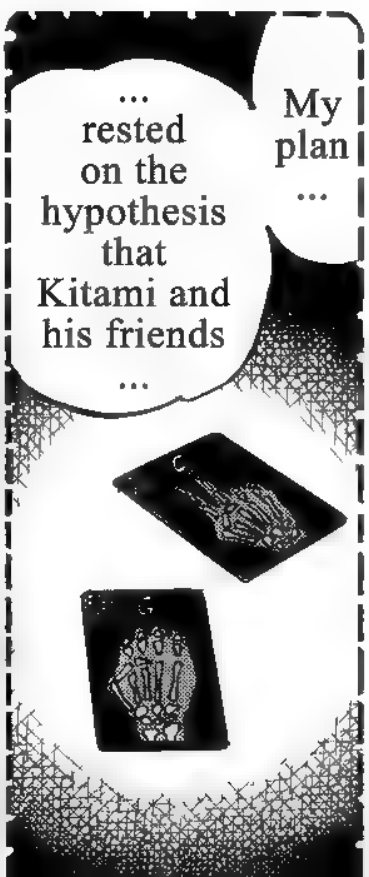
I think it goes without saying ...
... but this strategy ...
... Plus
... but that was close.
... before he had a chance to think ...
We really dodged a bullet with him calling set ...

There were still plenty of loose ends ...
... was hardly a sure bet.

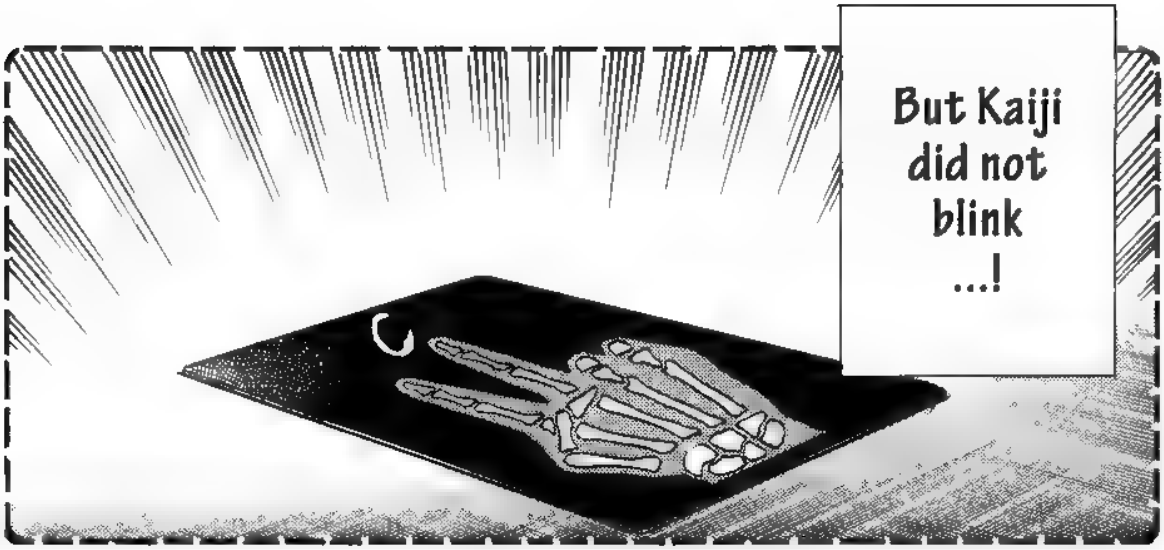
.....
It was entirely possible ...

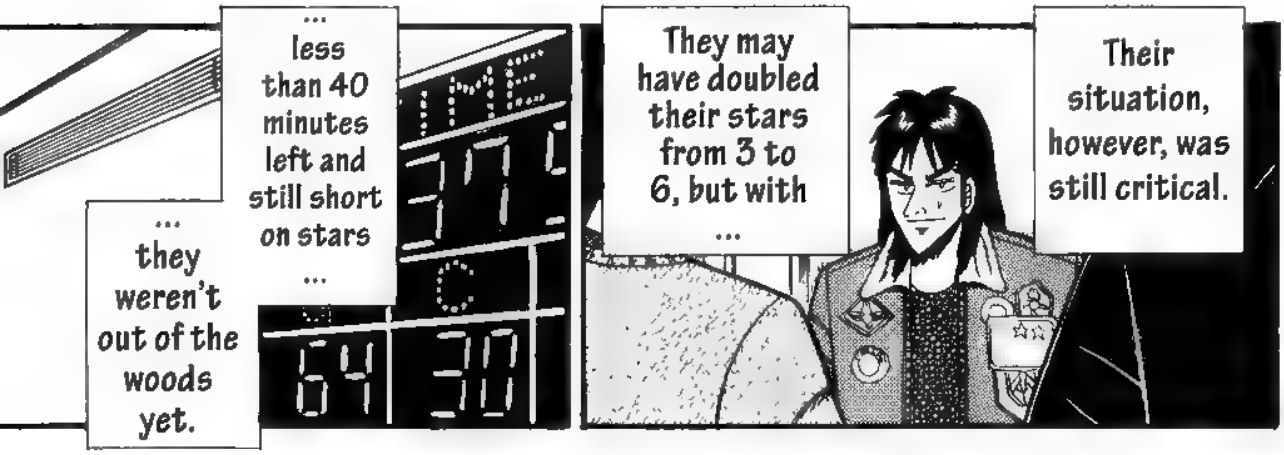

In that case there would have been nothing for us to do.
... that they had wound up taking in an uneven number of either.


... had evened out their few scissor and rock cards while still buying up paper.
But of course, it was entirely possible that they hadn't.


My plan ...
... rested on the hypothesis that Kitami and his friends ...

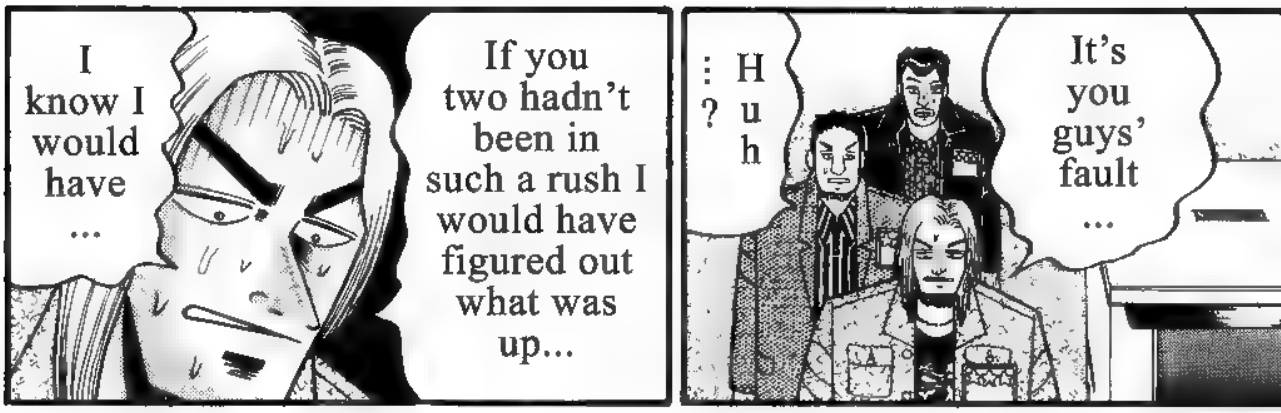
So in a sense, it was a matter of chance ...
... not absolute.
... our odds were only about 80%...
In other words ...
We were in real danger ...
... that I was feeling very sure of myself back there.
I couldn't say ...
... just like crossing over a rickety bridge.
Kaiji had been in real danger.
Indeed ...
Ahh ...
... just the same as you two.
I was scared to death ...
... and withstand his fears.
... which was welling up ...
... in his heart ...
... to resist the unquenchable doubt ...
... of his self control ...
It had taken the last ounce ...


But Kaiji did not blink ...!


... less than 40 minutes left and still short on stars ...
... they weren't out of the woods yet.
They may have doubled their stars from 3 to 6, but with ...
Their situation, however, was still critical.

Kaiji-san ...
.....
To keep moving forward ...!
They had to continue ...
: Forward
It was no time to sit down and give in to emotion.
That's right ...
... from here on out ?
What should we do ...

.....
.....


I know I would have ...
If you two hadn't been in such a rush I would have figured out what was up...
Huh?
It's you guys' fault ...

What ...!?
... you're the one who opened your big mouth and told him this was our last match!
If you're looking for someone to blame ...
What's that supposed to mean ...!?
You're the reason we failed ...

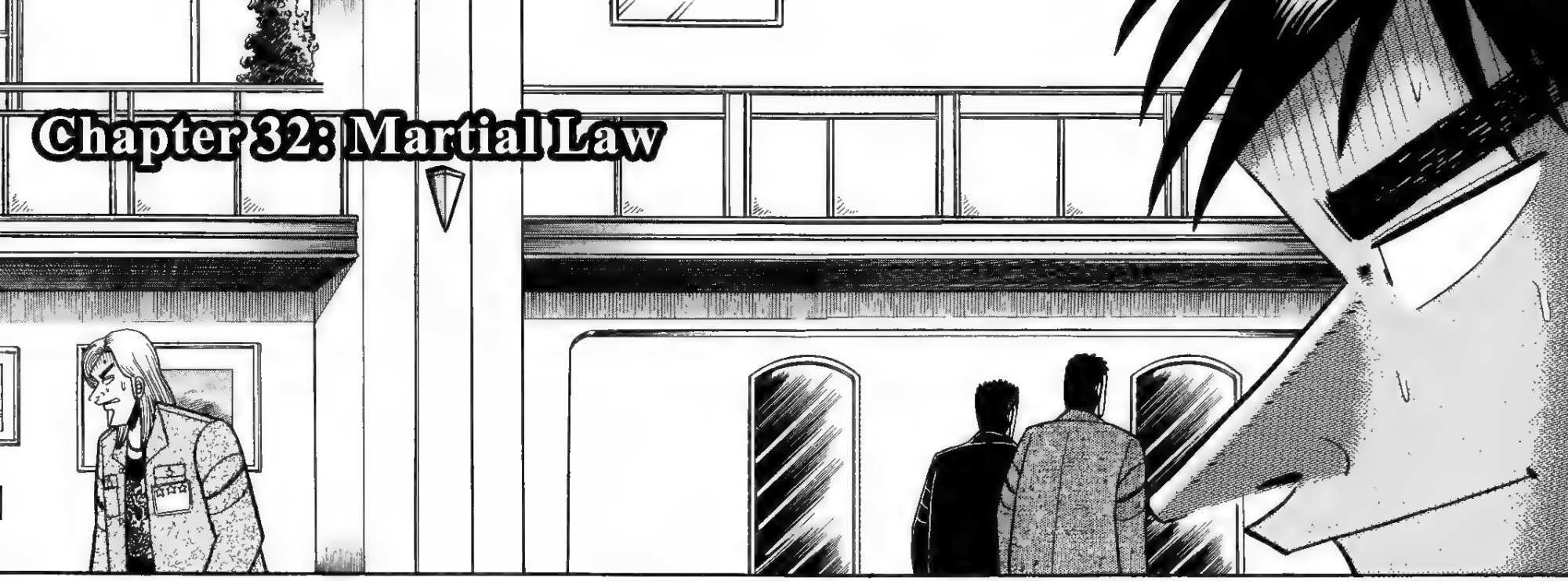
Hmph
It looks like they've started fighting ...
Hey ...
.....

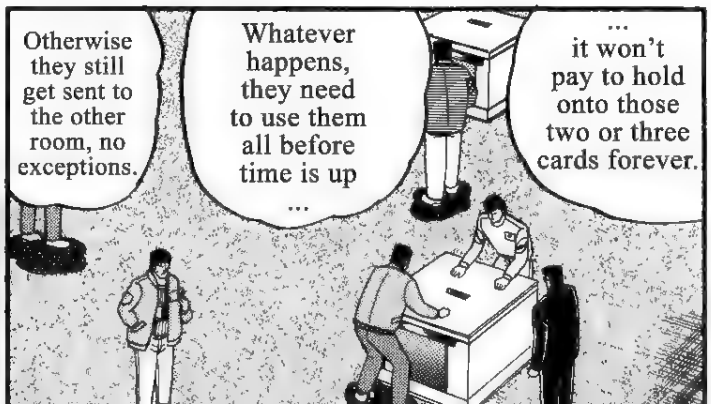
Furuhata
Ando
In a case like this ...
.. you might as well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb ...
Let's go hang some sheep ...
Huh ?
Say what ... ?
Hah
I mean, let's go all the way.
If we leave our normal judgment at the door do something crazy...
... another path might just open for us.
We've come this far ...
We've already prepared for the worst ...!

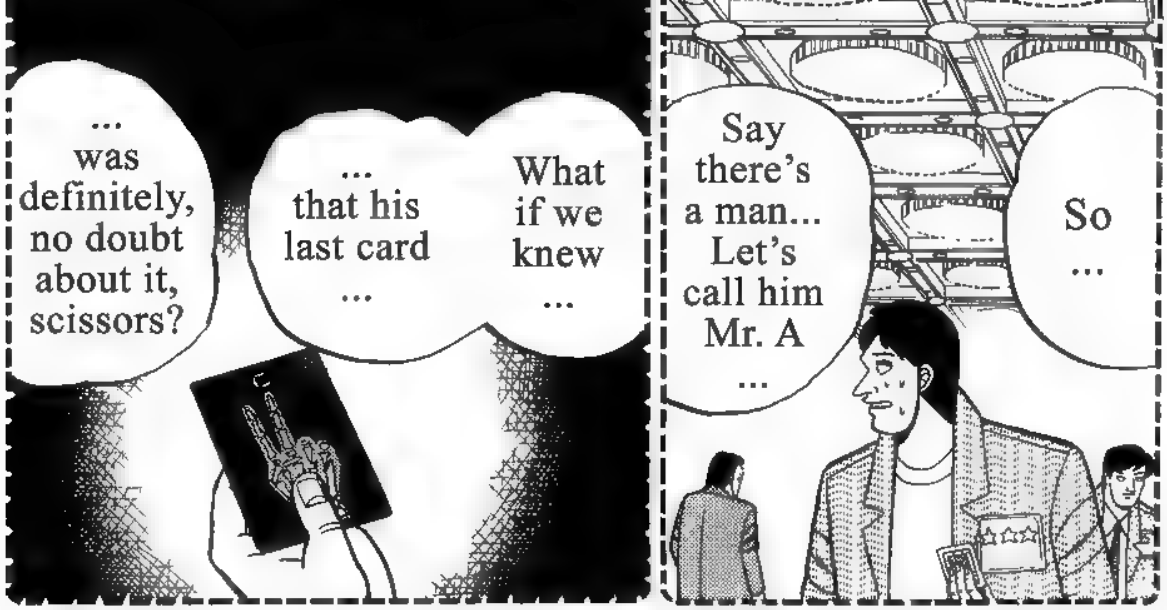
End of Chapter 31

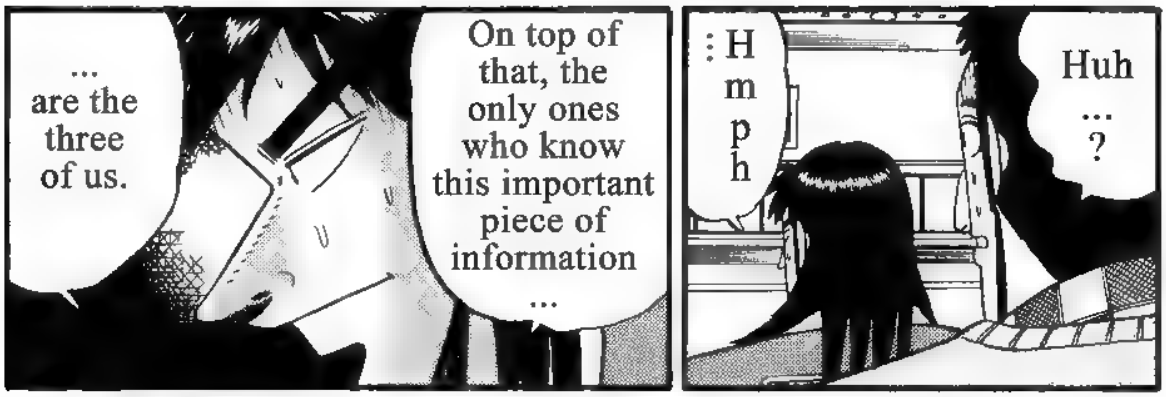
ざわ..ざわ..
Kaiji-san ...
.....
ざわ..
Why in the world ...
... would we buy ... paper ?
Kaiji-san... ?
Are you serious ...?
.....
Hmph
.....
FA

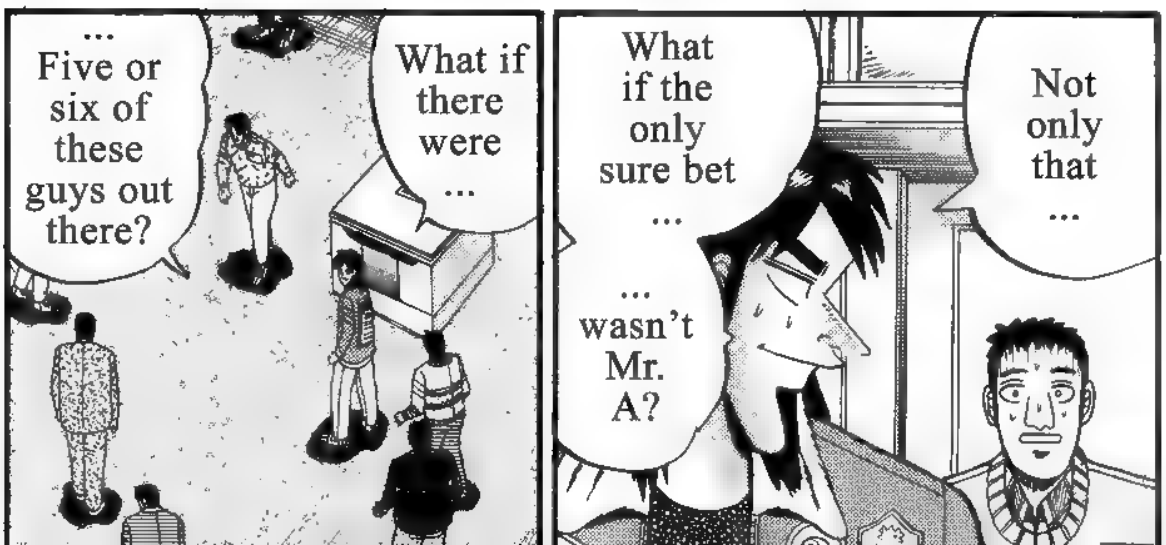
Chapter 32: Martial Law




Otherwise they still get sent to the other room, no exceptions.
Whatever happens, they need to use them all before time is up ...
... it won't pay to hold onto those two or three cards forever.

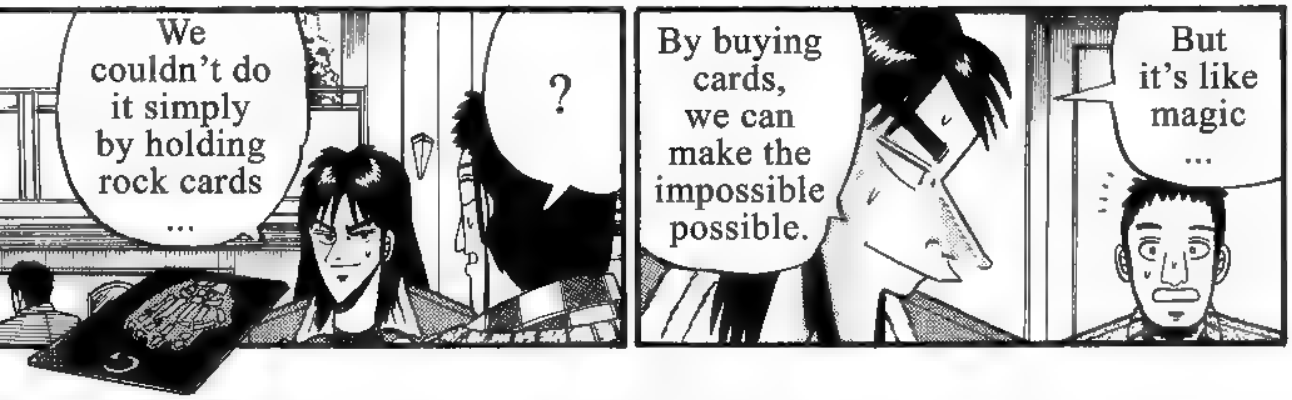

...
was definitely, no doubt about it, scissors?
...
that his last card
...
What if we knew
...
Say there's a man... Let's call him Mr. A
...
So
...


...
are the three of us.
On top of that, the only ones who know this important piece of information
...
Hmph
Huh
...
?


...
Five or six of these guys out there?
What if there were
...
What if the only sure bet
...
...
wasn't Mr. A?
Not only that
...

Huh ... ?
.....

No ...
Not if we play by normal rules...
It' isn't really possible ...
That's just too good to be true.
But ...

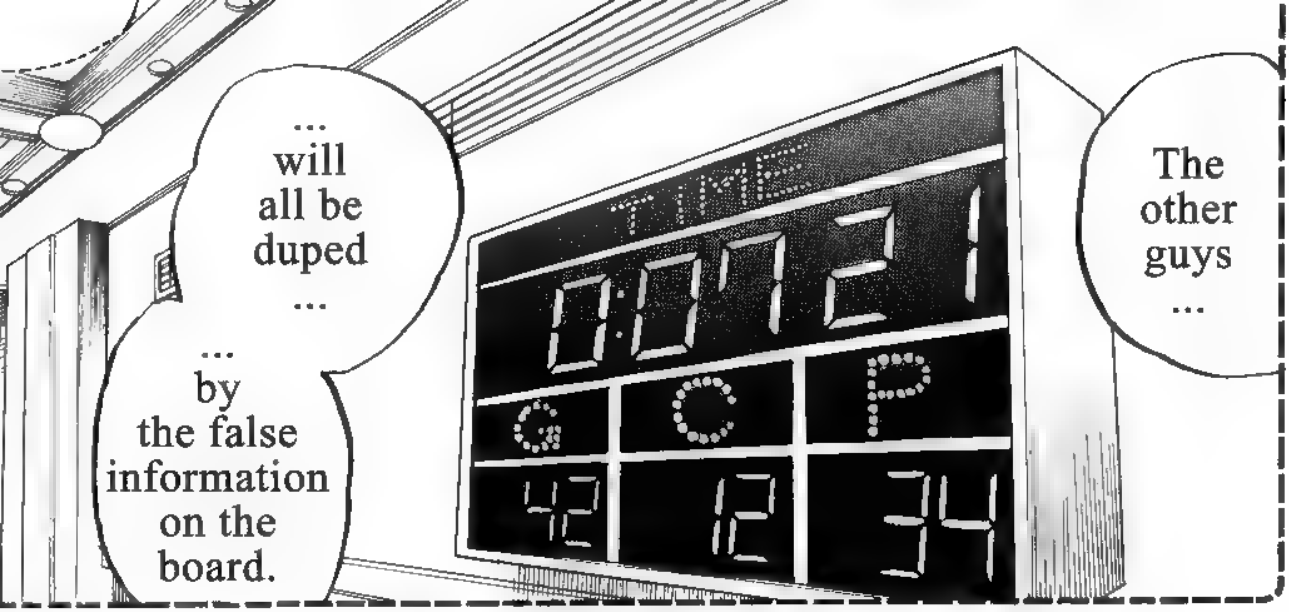

We couldn't do it simply by holding rock cards ...
?
By buying cards, we can make the impossible possible.
But it's like magic ...

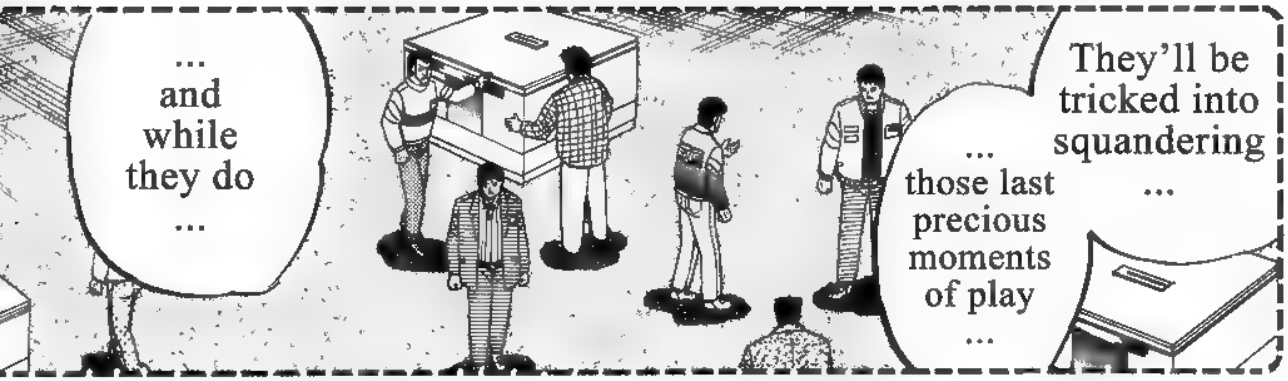
Call it divine inspiration ...
Huh ...
.....
... it becomes a real possibility.
... but if we went for both rock and paper ...

... the voice of God will speak to us ...
... and to us alone.
... and the curtain is ready to descend ...
... when tonight's game of Limited Janken is almost over ...
If we buy up both rock and paper ...
... will tell us which cards to play!
: Heaven
We'll be the only ones who know ...
: Huh?
... out on the floor.
Know how the cards really stand ...

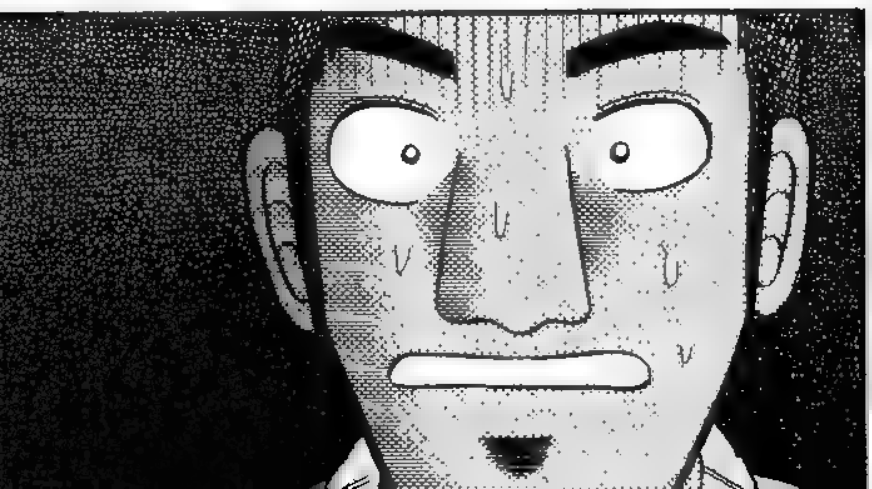
... will be completely in the dark about it.
... the rest of these guys ...
... both rock and paper ...
If we buy up ...
... with time still remaining and plenty of cards in circulation ... ... out on the floor ...
If it was still the middle of the game ...
You see ...
They'll be blundering about, relying on false information.
Come closing time ...
But ...
... wouldn't be very important.
... the difference between what we know and what the other guys know ...
... there's even a chance one of the cards will be "discontinued."
Once it's down to the wire ...
... when every second counts ...
... that's another story.
... with less than 10 minutes remaining ...

...
one of the cards could run out
...
...
leaving zero left.
In other words
...
?
...
making scissors a surefire win.
...
that would leave scissors and paper
...
If rocks ran out
...
C
P
...
making rock the winner.
...then rock and scissors would be left...
If paper ran out
...
C
C
...
would be the ones who bought up rock and paper
...us.
...who would know about this situation
...
However, the only people on the floor
...
...then the same situation will inevitably arise.
If one card runs out
...
.....


TIME
0:01:21
G
C
P
42
12
34
The other guys ...
... will all be duped ...
... by the false information on the board.


They'll be tricked into squandering ...
... those last precious moments of play ...
... and while they do ...

A h h ... !



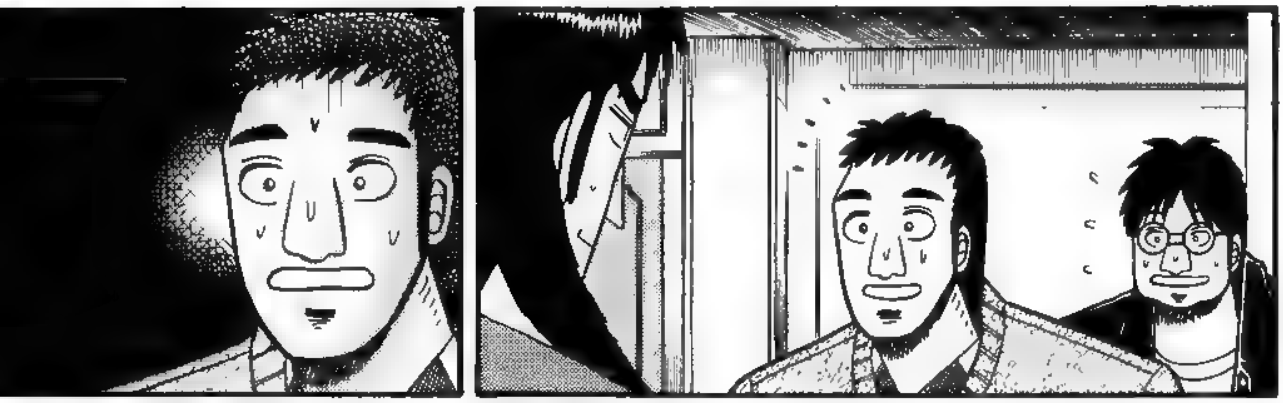
... we'll be pulling in the wins ...
... risk free !

Hmph
Kaiji-san ...!
K ...

But even still ...
... One or two cards remaining.
There'll probably still be ...
... chances are the cards don't get down to quite zero.
Of course ...

... we just take care of the rest of the cards with draws.
After we've won enough ...
The endgame will be ours.
... that will give us an 80-90% chance.

It really is ...!
It's perfect ...!
What do you mean "well" ...?
Well ... ?



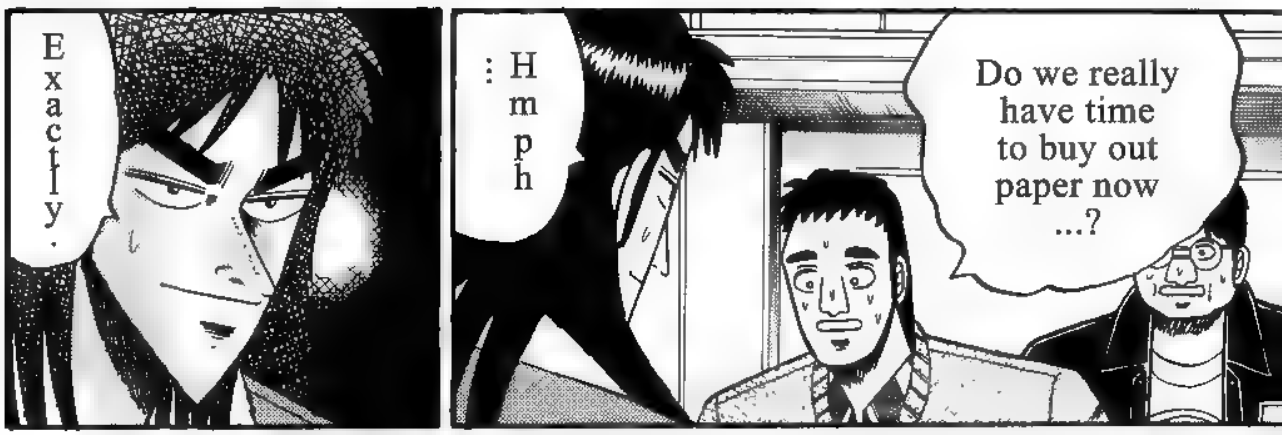
What's wrong ...?

Nothing ...
.....

Hmm ... ?
.....

Ahh ...

There's only 36 minutes left.
Huh ...?
Isn't it too late ...?
Just, now that I think it through ...


Exactly.
Hmph ...
Do we really have time to buy out paper now ...?

... we can bypass that stage.
Lucky for us ...
But Furuhata ...
Usually, it would be impossible.
Huh ... ?
There's a shortcut.
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

PSST
You too, Ando ...
Listen close.
THWUMP
WHAT ...!?
Just do it.
1 mil. each should be enough.
.....
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

... Ando and Furuhata ...
... with the same look of bafflement upon their faces ...
Half disbelieving ...
: Ahh
Now go ...!
But in only 3 minutes time ...
TIME
0:32'49
... of Kaiji's planning.
... both depart, for a negotiation ...
... they return with 20 paper cards!
I thought so ...
They took the bait so quickly it was over before I even knew it ...
Wow!
I can't believe it ...!
FAR EAST AIR FORCE

Now then ...
Hmph
But, should we have done that ...?
... he's got no clothes.
Someone has to tell the emperor ...
... to take the stage.
Time for the lead actor ...

FAR EAST
.....
Wish I could but I can't.
... that I had the time to put my head in my hands and stare off into space.
Just thought it must be nice.
Nothing
Hmph
.....
What do you want ...?
FAR E
Hmph
Wh- What do you think you're doing ...!
Scooch over ...
To be honest, I'm jealous ...
You should count yourself lucky.
FAR EAST AIR FORCE
I just wish ...
But I don't have enough stars.
... and feel sorry for myself too.
I wish I could sit down ...

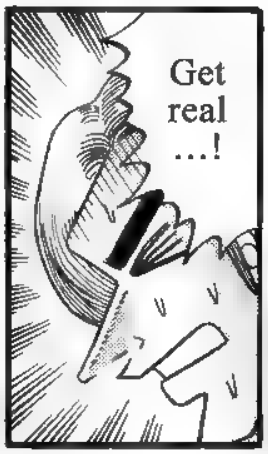
Are you sure you want to chase me away ...?
Hold on, now ...
Get lost...! Go over there!
Get lost ...!
Don't try and sit next to me...!

I'm your new messiah.
After all, I came here to save you ...

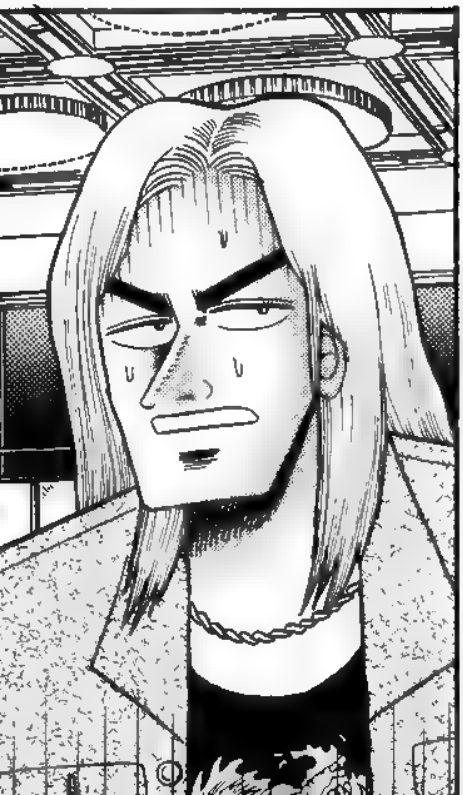
Huh ...?
End of Chapter 32

ざわ
……

Hmph …
Who do you think you are …!?


Get real …!

Yeah …
You think that you're gonna be my messiah …?



Over at the stairs …
Huh … ?

Take a look …
I'm telling you the truth …

Chapter 33: A Favorable Wind

After all …
For 1 mil. each they rolled right over.

Huh ?
Sorry, but we had to buy them out.

: Hmph
Ahh …!

It's not like you guys had any reason to trust each other in the first place.
Are you really surprised …? Kitami …?

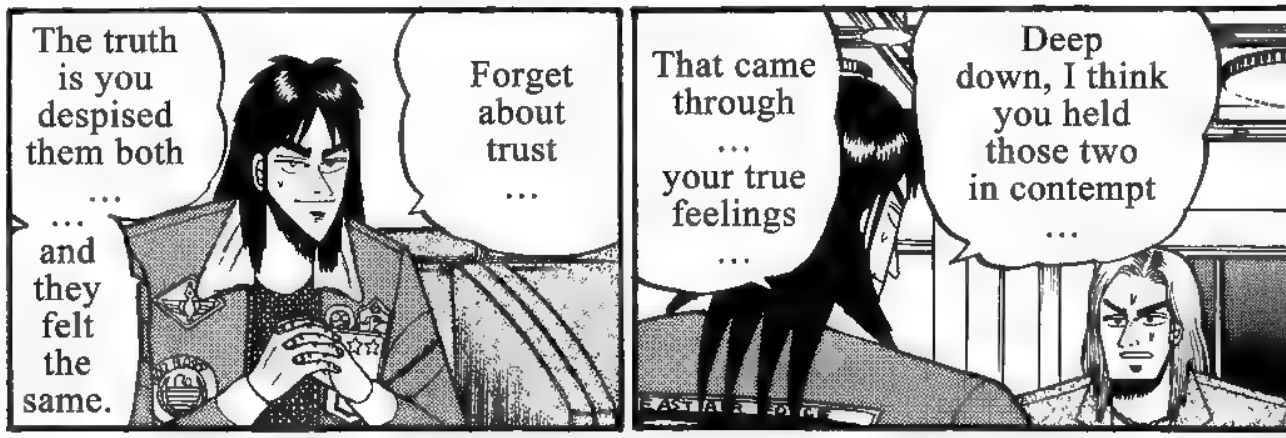
I guess it didn't really matter how much, any money was a better offer.

……
You guys were just planning on disposing of the cards by playing draws …

: Hehehe
Why would they leave me…?

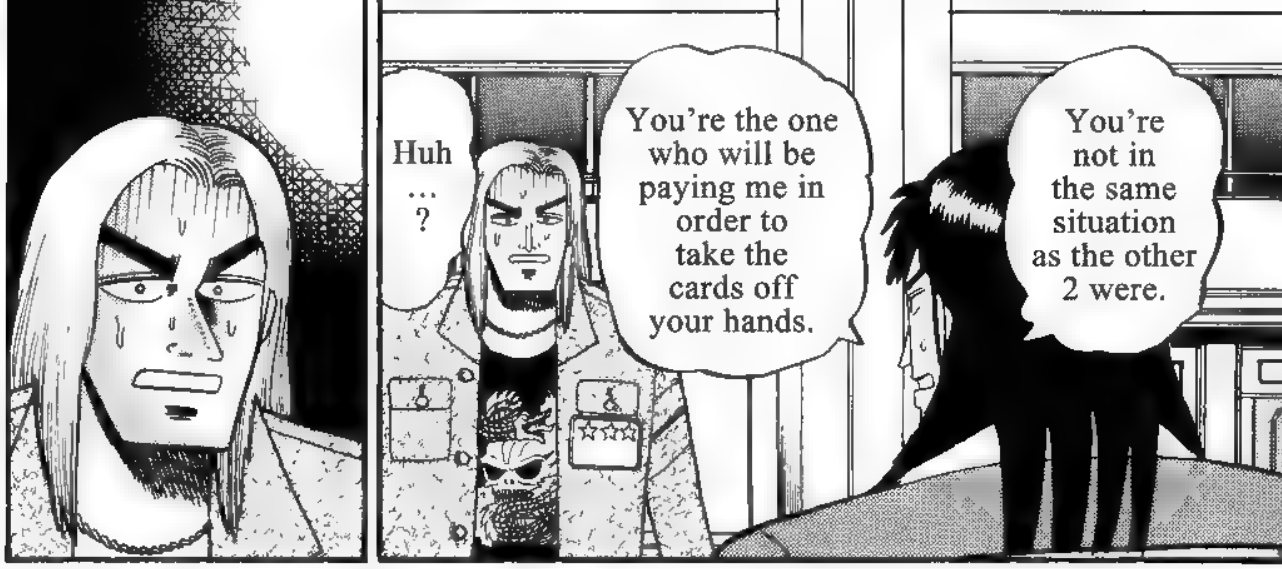
Those jerks …!
B-But why …?

Plus …
Once a better offer showed itself they were quick to jump ship.
The three of you banded together 100% out of self-interest.
……


The truth is you despised them both …
… and they felt the same.
Forget about trust …
That came through … your true feelings …
Deep down, I think you held those two in contempt …

Hmph
You jerk …
Now what will you do …?
… and I gave it to them.
Ahh …
They were just waiting for the chance. From the very beginning …
…they were waiting for the chance …

You can't fly upstairs now on the wings of your former plan.
In other words ...
Without your partners you're like a plucked bird.
... you're in a pretty tough spot now.
Obviously ...
.....
You've got at least ten matches waiting for you.
... to chance.
You're going to have to trust all the paper cards you've amassed ...
You want me to trade my cards for a little spare change, too ...?
Huh ... ?
So you expect me to sell ...?
What ... ?
The other way around!
It's the other way around for you.
You must be dreaming!
Woah, there !
That's it right? You want me to sell the rest of my cards ...!?

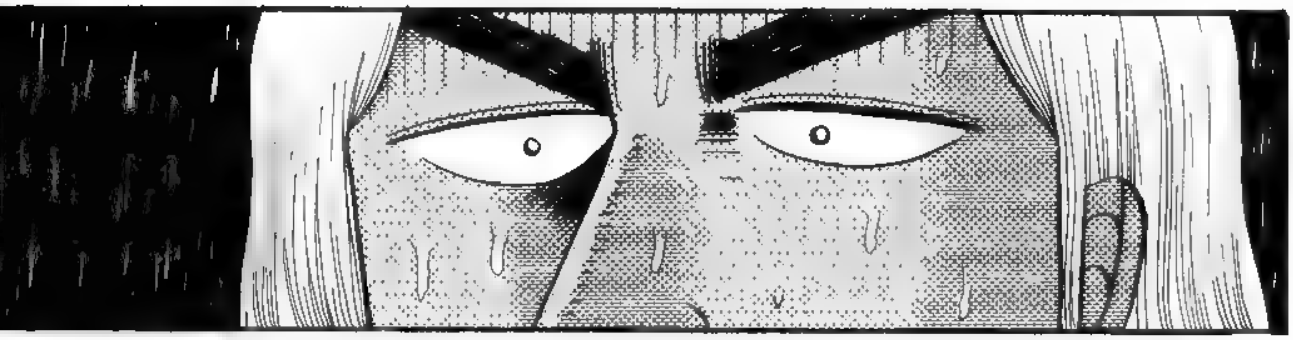

Huh … ?
You're the one who will be paying me in order to take the cards off your hands.
You're not in the same situation as the other 2 were.

Just because my partners are gone…
What are you saying …!?
Get real …!
Exactly.
I have to pay …?

There will still be plenty of guys out there with 1 or 2 stars but no cards left…
… why would I pay in order for you to take my cards ?

I won't let you.
You see …
… but that's not possible.
Huh … ?
Sorry …
I can just give my cards away to them …!

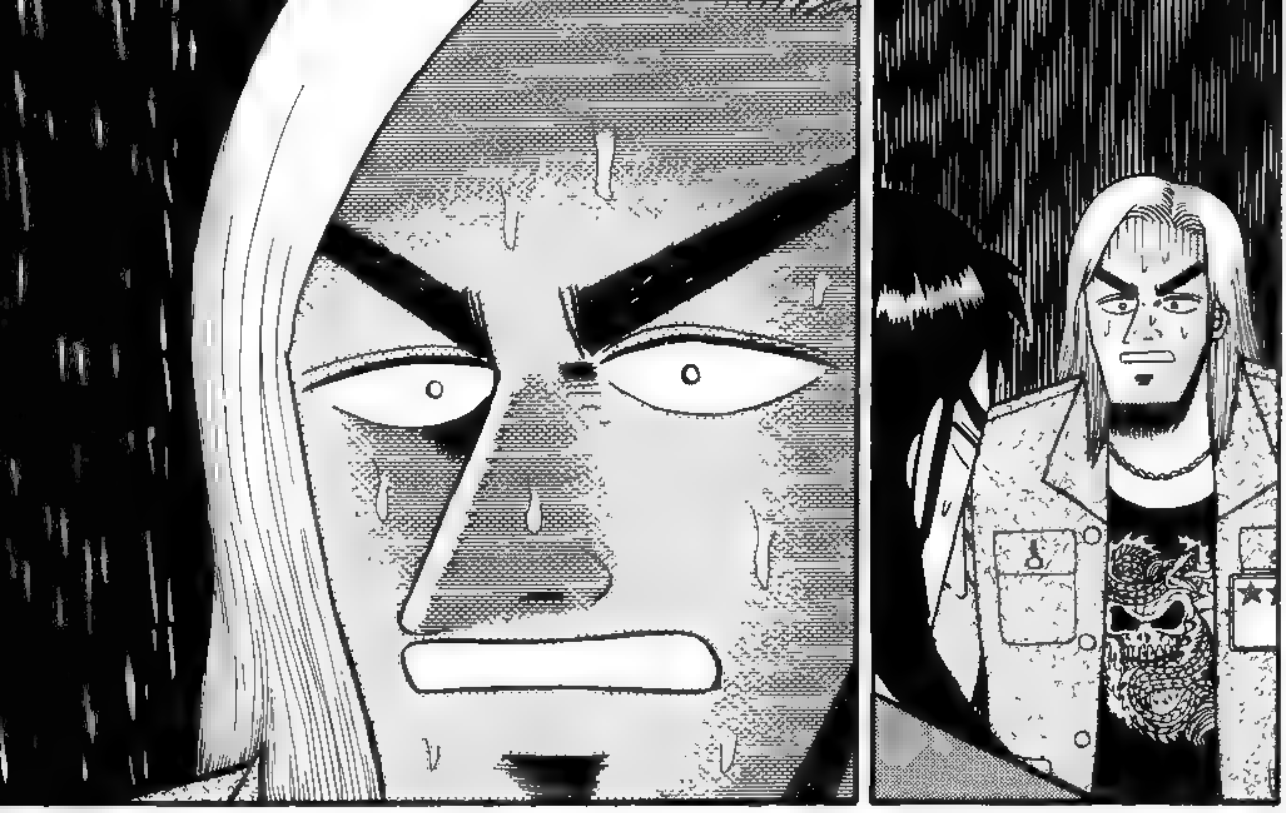
When it's down to the endgame, who will take those cards when everyone knows what they are.
I'll make sure that everyone knows.
Your cards are almost entirely paper.



You gotta be kidding ...!
Hmph ...
H-How dare you ...!

But you still don't get it ...
Yeah, I guess you got me there ...
: Hmph
After all, all your cards are rocks, aren't they ...!?
... then I'll do the same thing!
If you do that ...then ...then ...

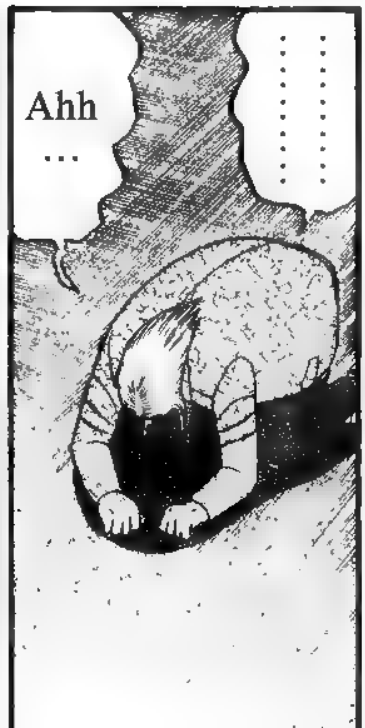
You see, we can still take care of our cards by playing draws, so we don't need to give them away ...
We're only worried about the matches ...
Even if you revealed our cards it wouldn't hurt us much.
There's one big different between our situation and yours.
We could easily win three or four matches.
But you ...
We have plenty of other cards too.
...it might actually give us a leg up and increase our chances of winning.
In fact, if everyone knew how many rocks we have ...
... but then you'd be in trouble.
... so you could probably trick them for a match or two ...
Of course like us you held on to a few other cards as well ...
If everyone knew you held paper that would be the end.
Don't you agree ...?
... that would be a miracle.
If you managed to hang on to 3 stars ...
In the end ...
... you're going to lose big.
You've got 10 plus paper to get rid of. There's no getting away from that ...



I think we can agree on 2 mil. yen…!

Hmph
Ahh…!

And so…
OOHHH…

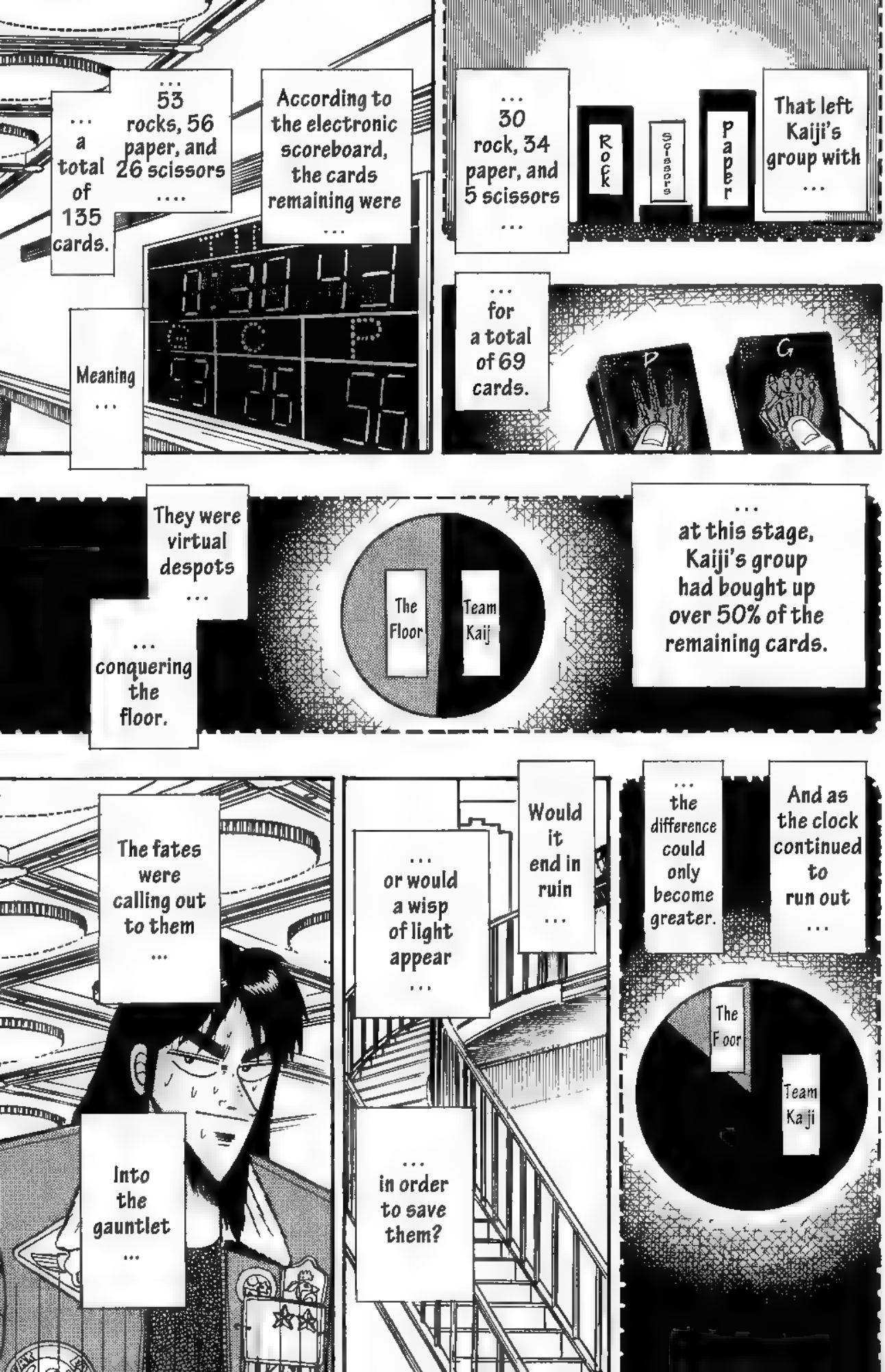

Ahh…
……

If you don't like it go someplace else…
The same amount we paid your friends.
It's all the same to me…

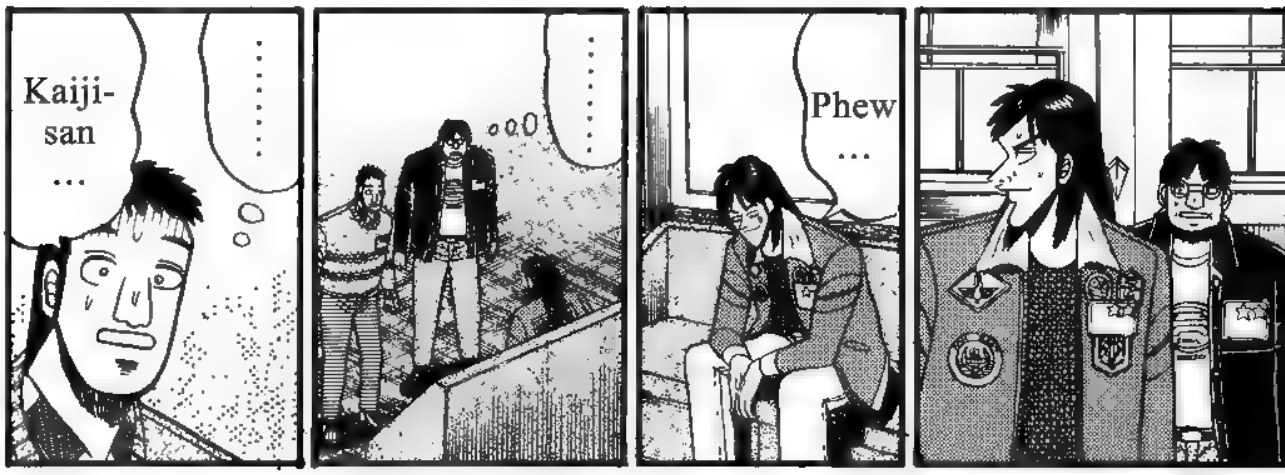
finally comes to an end!

The great battle between rock and paper...

... got his hands on all of the paper group's cards ...
... but also ...
... all 36 of them.
... Kaiji not only took 3 stars ...
Altogether, in his battle against Kitami ...
Kitami heads to the 2nd floor ...

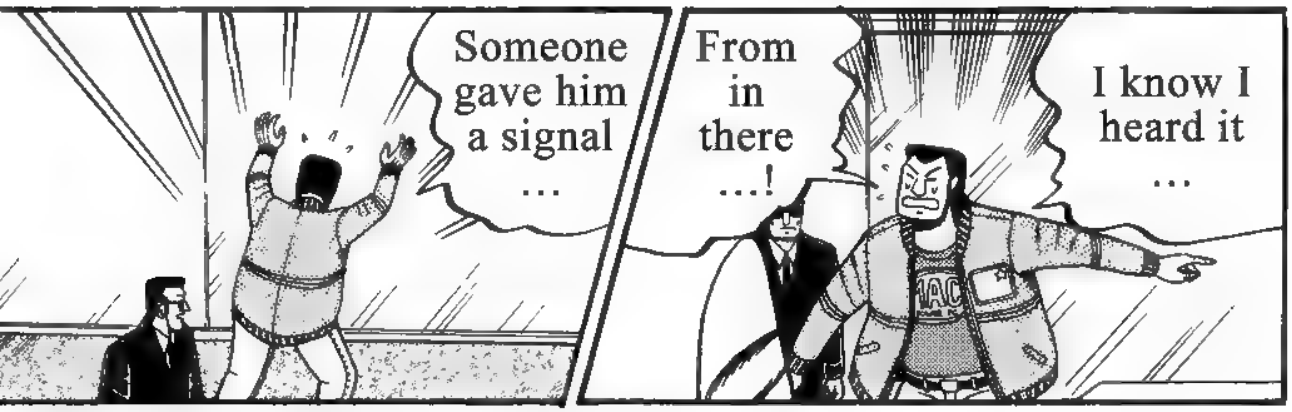

... a total of 135 cards.
... 53 rocks, 56 paper, and 26 scissors ....
According to the electronic scoreboard, the cards remaining were ...
Meaning ...
... 30 rock, 34 paper, and 5 scissors ...
Rock
Scissors
Paper
That left Kaiji's group with ...
... for a total of 69 cards.
P
G
They were virtual despots ...
... conquering the floor.
The Floor
Team Kaij
... at this stage, Kaiji's group had bought up over 50% of the remaining cards.
The fates were calling out to them ...
Into the gauntlet ...
... or would a wisp of light appear ...
... in order to save them?
Would it end in ruin ...
... the difference could only become greater.
And as the clock continued to run out ...
The Floor
Team Kaji

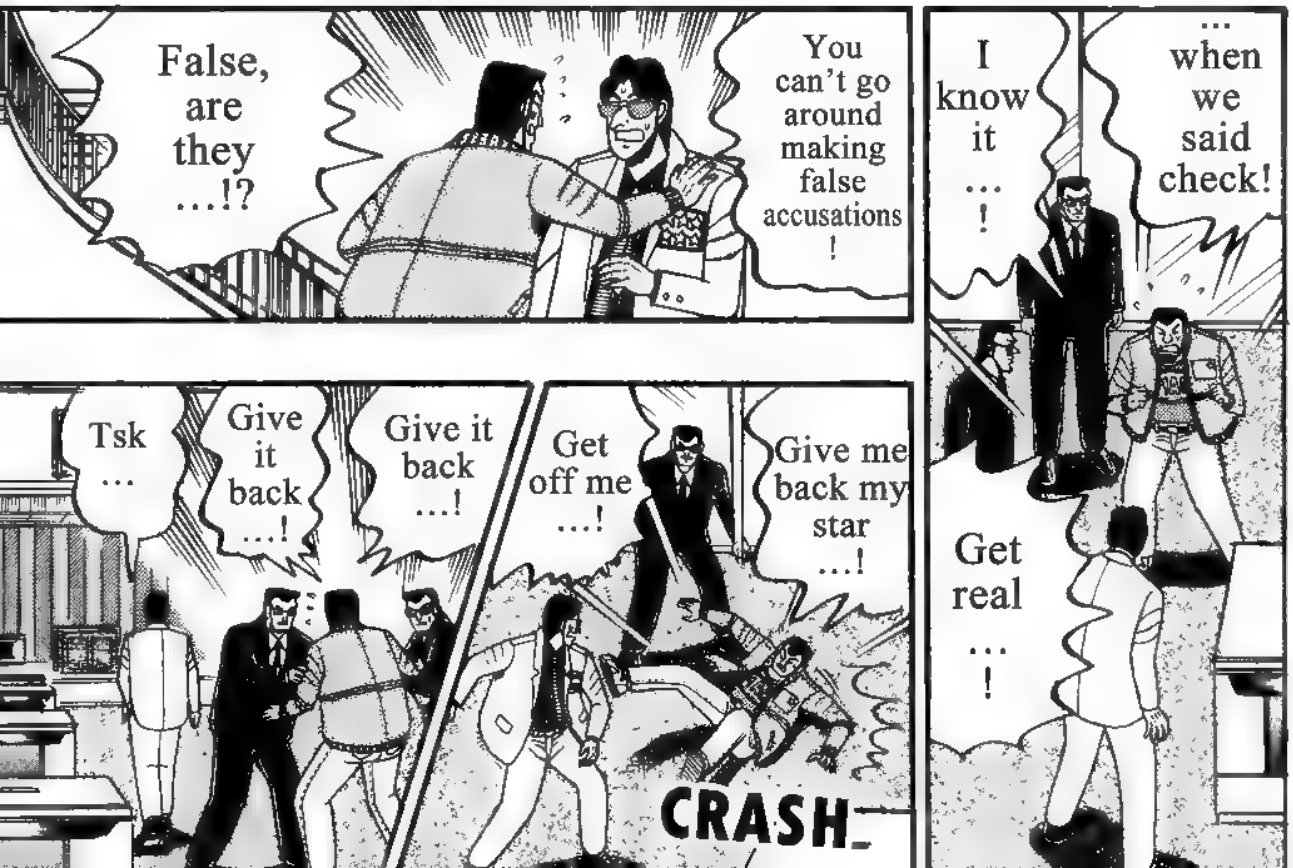
The end was coming ...
... the time of judgment !


Kaiji-san ...
.....
.....
Phew ...

Huh ...
... in our best interests.
Pray that things turn out ...
Now, we just have to pray ...
I did what I needed to do.
.....

He's cheating …!
That's right …
Now that we've come this far …
……
……


Someone gave him a signal …
From in there …!
I know I heard it …

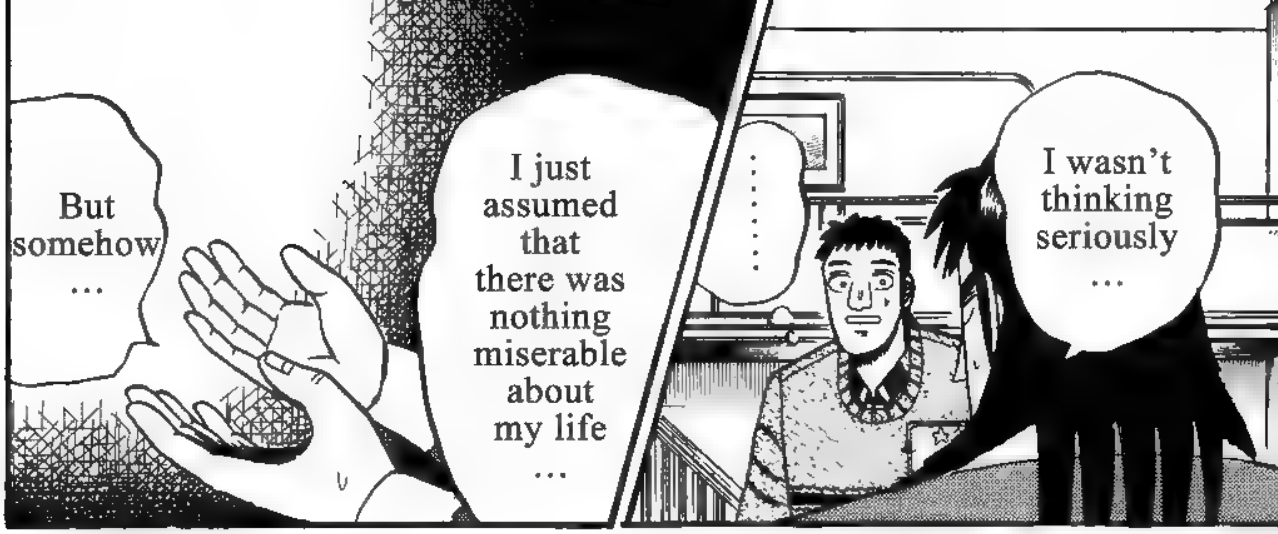

False, are they …!?
You can't go around making false accusations !
Tsk …
Give it back …!
Give it back …!
Get off me …!
Give me back my star …!
CRASH
I know it …!
… when we said check!
Get real …!

Ohhh
...
ざわ..
Give it back ...
ざわ..
.....
Ahh
....
.....
Do what I say and you'll be fine.
Leave it to me.
.....
That guy ...

There's a surefire way to win ...
I remember him ...
... might actually be true.
He might have actually convinced that old man with 1 star ... ... to go into the other room and send him signals ... ... so that he could cheat.
Which means it is possible ...
... that what he said just now, about cheating ...
If the room they're keeping us in ...
... is on the other side of that mirror ...
... a 1 way mirror ...
... built so those inside could see out ... ... then it could happen ...
As payback ...
... maybe he promised to give the guy 3 stars during that final auction ...
... which Funai had been talking about.
It's not impossible ...
If he was a repeat player ...
... then cheating could be a real possibility.
A strategy ...

.....
Ohhh
...
But
...
... assuming that were the case ...
... someone onboard ...
... would be sure to call foul.
...it's practically the rule that 1 person deceives another.
Still, on this ship ...
Every dirty trick in the book is on display here.
And the organizers give tacit consent ...
... by pretending not to see.

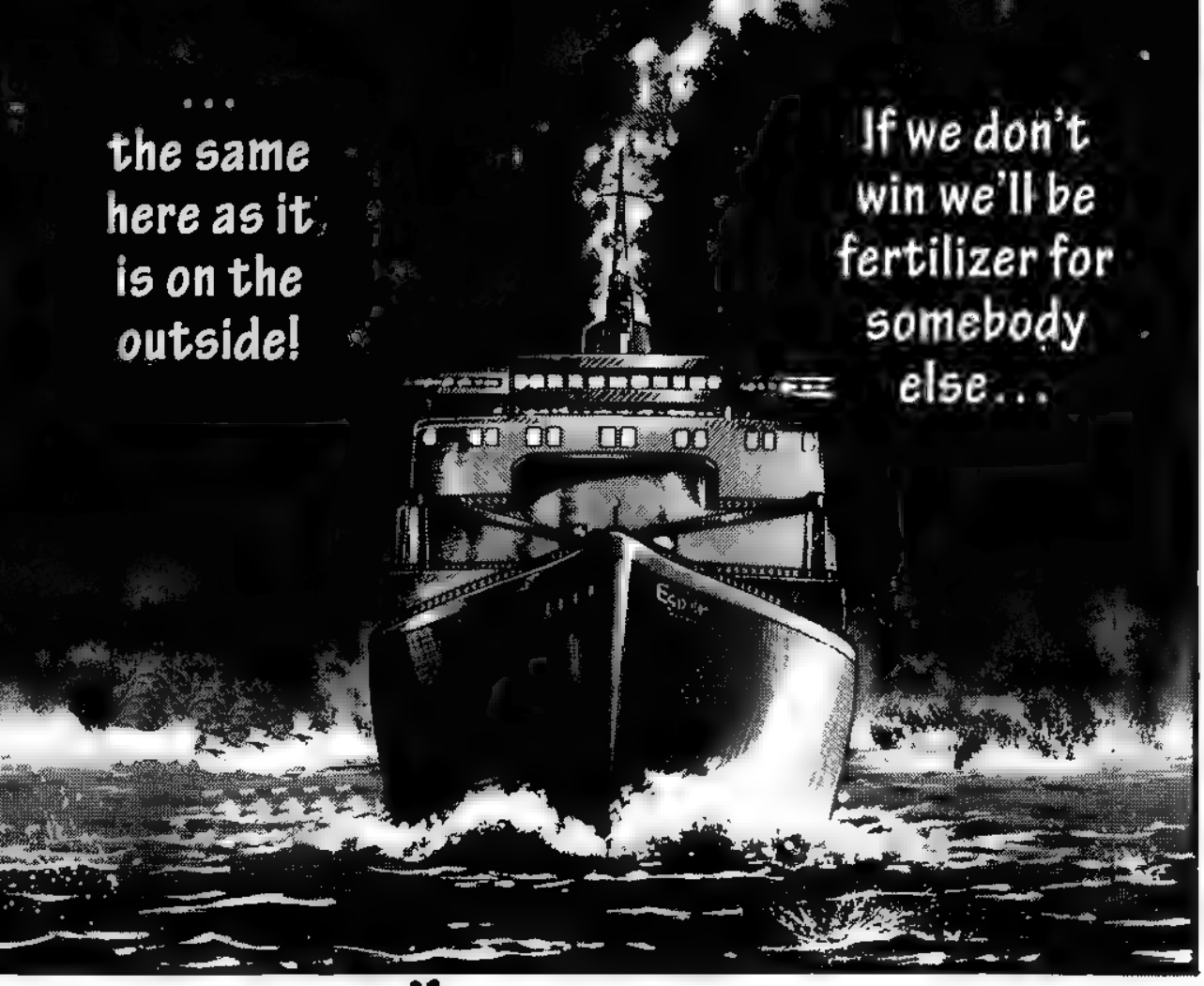
He forgot what this place is …
Forgot common sense.
Nothing more and nothing less.
… of someone who just wasn't being careful enough.
This is just another example …
We can't afford to lose …
Kaiji-san …
We've gotta win …
When I was on the outside I just didn't get it …
… then the life in between will be misery.
It's the way it is.
… if we don't win …
That's the way it is …
We're born and we die …
But by the same token …

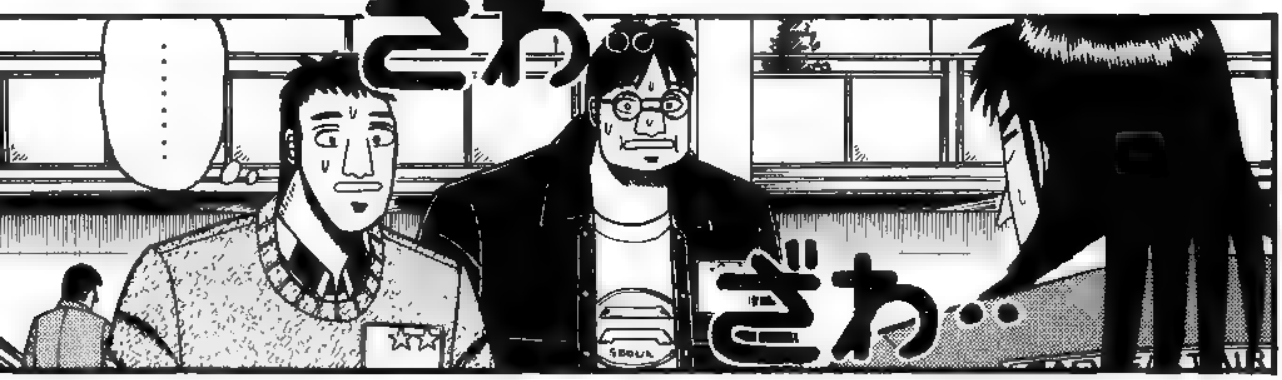


End of Chapter 33

Chapter 34: Despicable

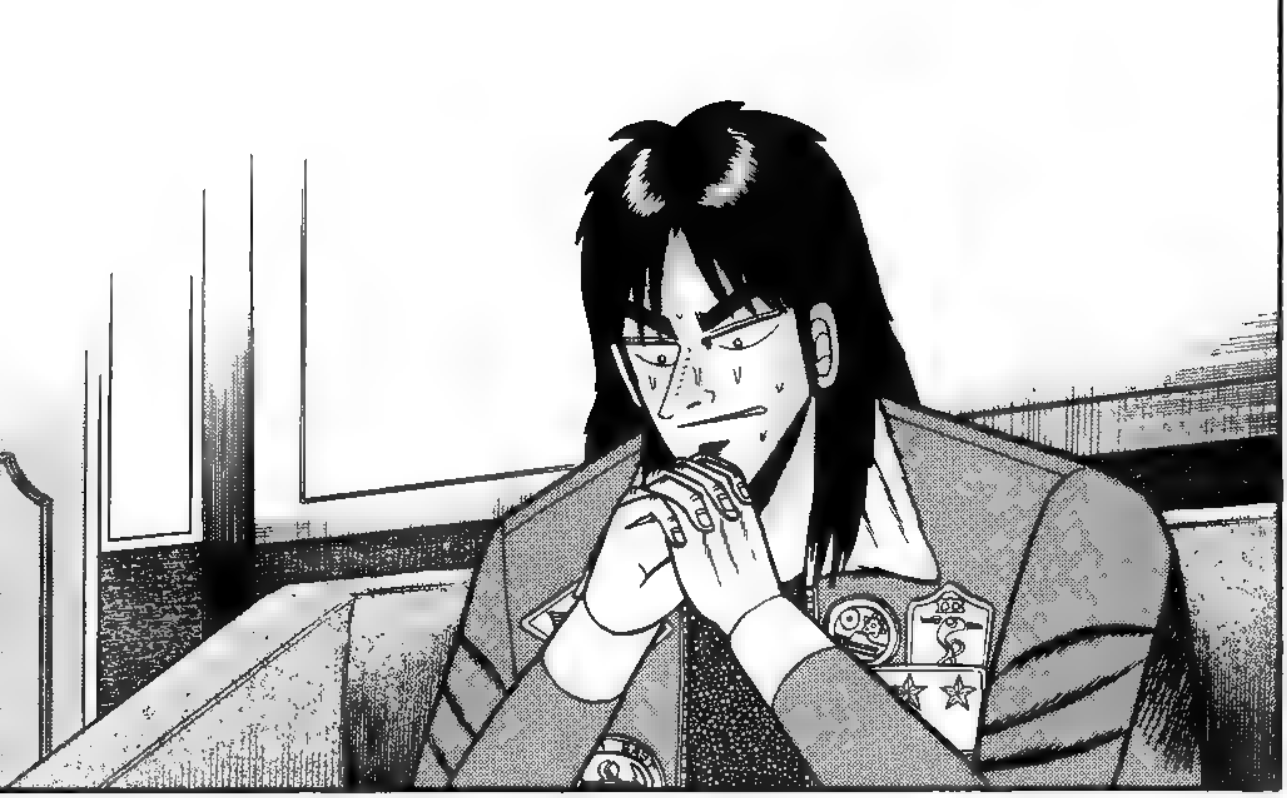
Gambling Apocalypse Kaiji


...
the same here as it is on the outside!
If we don't win we'll be fertilizer for somebody else...


.....
ざわ
ざわ..

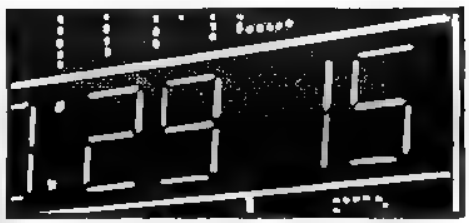
Maybe we should split up ...
.....
Kaiji-san ...

We shouldn't be standing around together like this.
Still …
… already knows …
… that we're a group …
Everybody on the floor …
It's too obvious that the three of us are waiting for something …
We're too conspicuous.
Until then we shouldn't stay together …
……
…we won't make our move until less than 10 minutes remain.
At the very earliest …
Okay …
……
Let's split up …

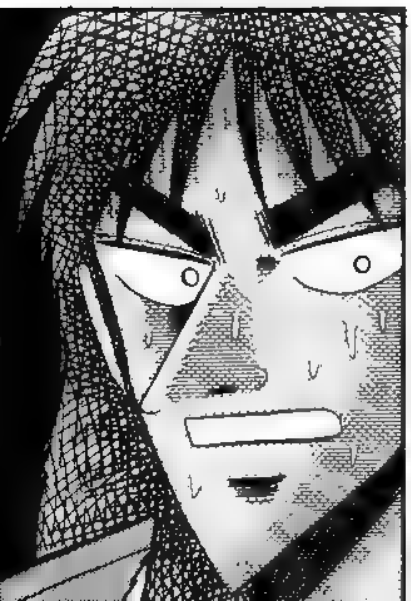


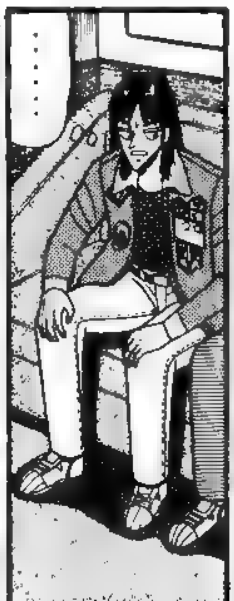
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

Soon it will all be over
...


1:29:15

30 minutes left
...




...

You're better than I thought... Kaiji-san
...

Man
...
...
PATTER

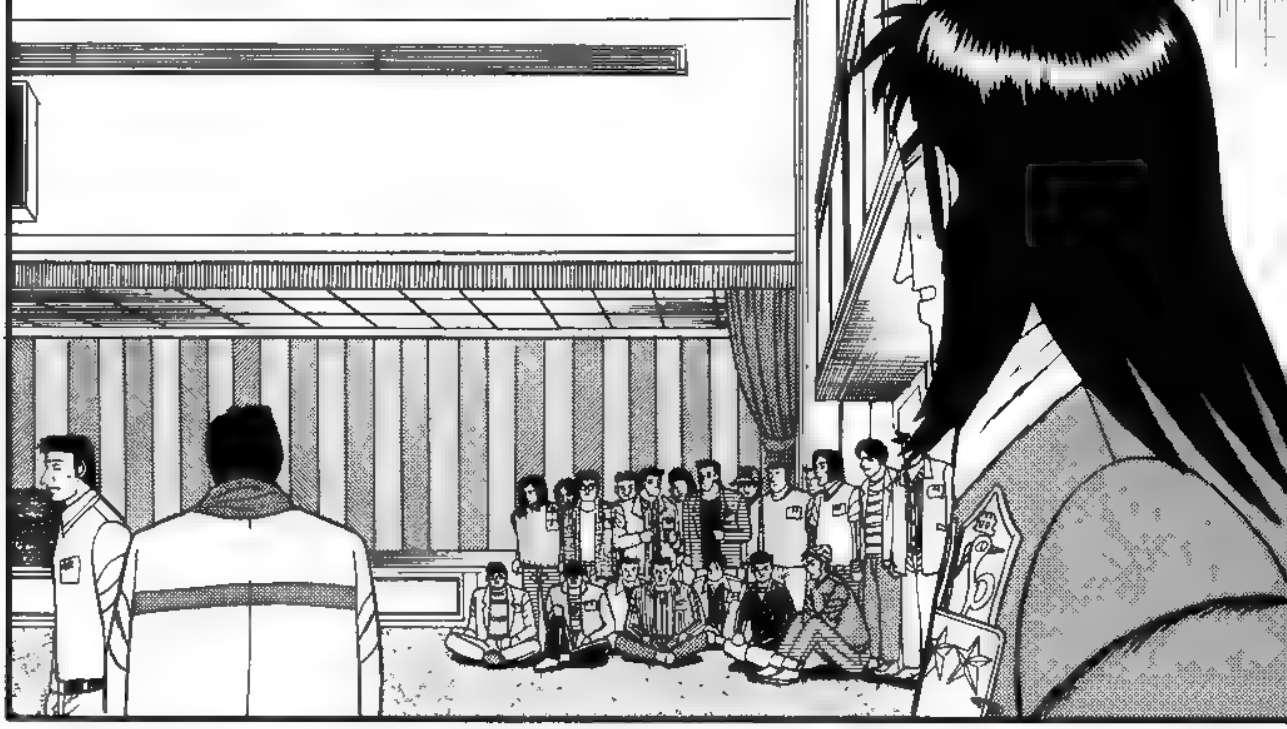
It won't hurt you ... ... to hear what I have to say.
Come on, don't break my back here ...
Hehehe ...
Just what do you want ...!?

At the very start of the night ... ... he tricked Kaiji out of 2 of his stars.
Jouji Funai.

Funai ... !
.....
Hehehe ...

In the corner over there ...
Take a look ...
.....
I came to offer you some information, as it were ...

.....
He's the main reason Kaiji was in the predicament he was.

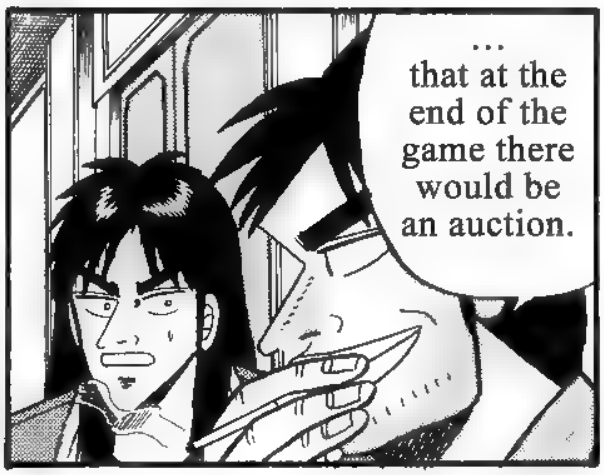


ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ざわ・・

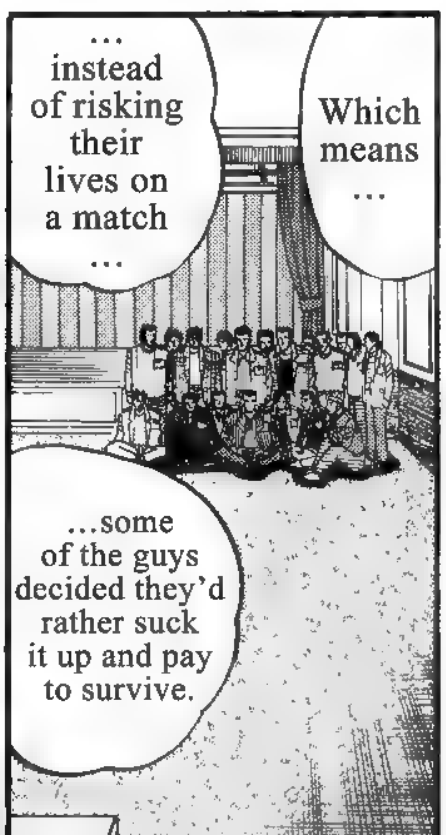
…
you know the end is almost here.
…?
Once the lemmings come out …
?
Hmph …

…
for about 30 minutes
…
…
telling the guys with no cards
…
The organizers went around
…
……
Those are guys with 1 or 2 stars but no cards.

…they told them that even if they didn't risk playing any more matches they could still survive
…
…
by buying stars.
In other words
…

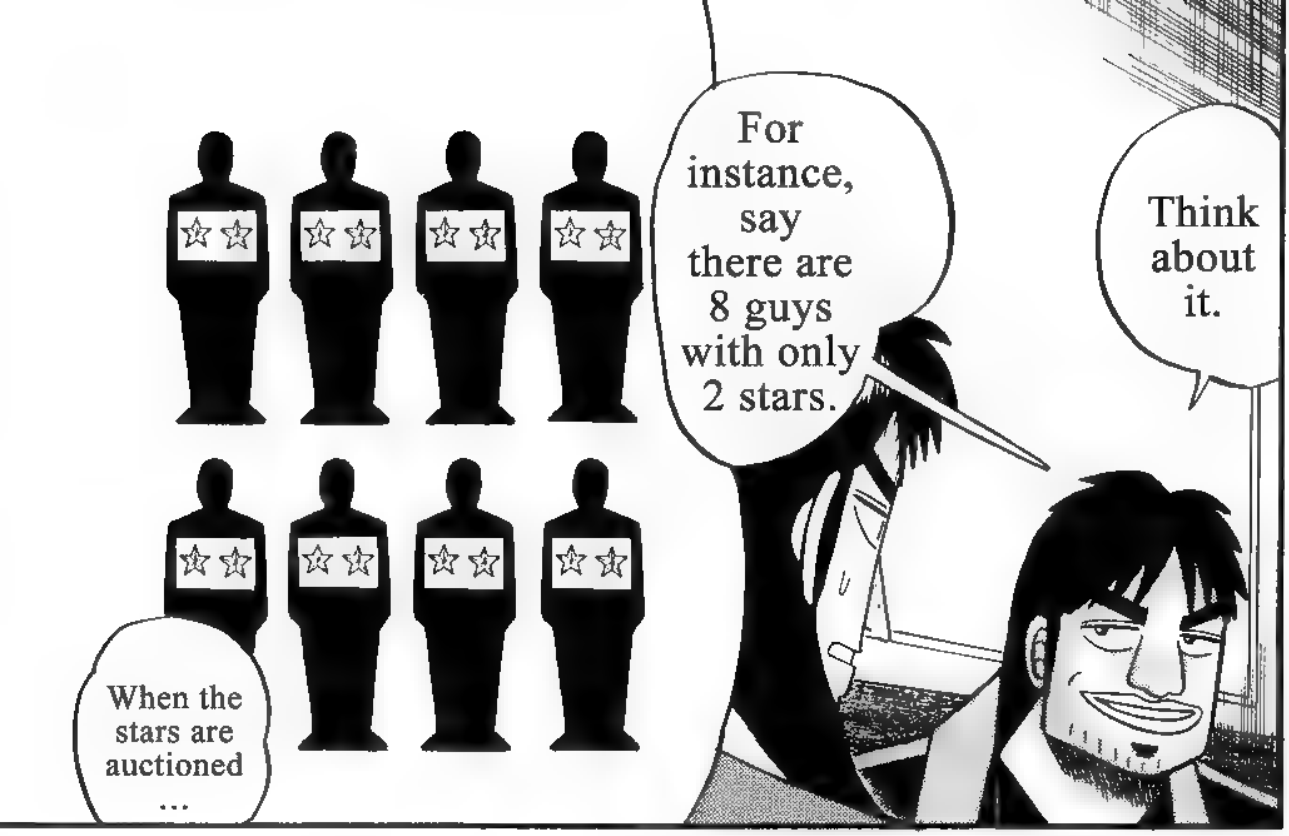

…
that at the end of the game there would be an auction.

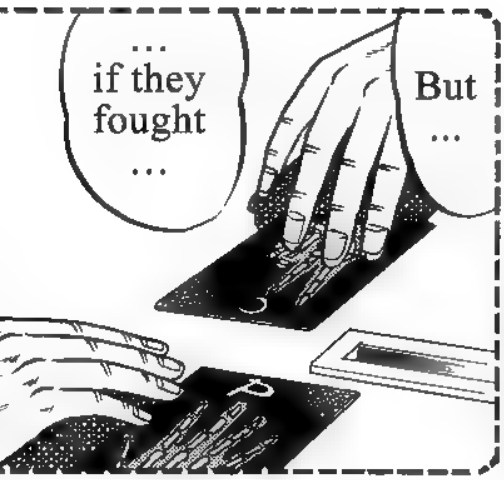
…
most of the guys decided that.
In fact
…

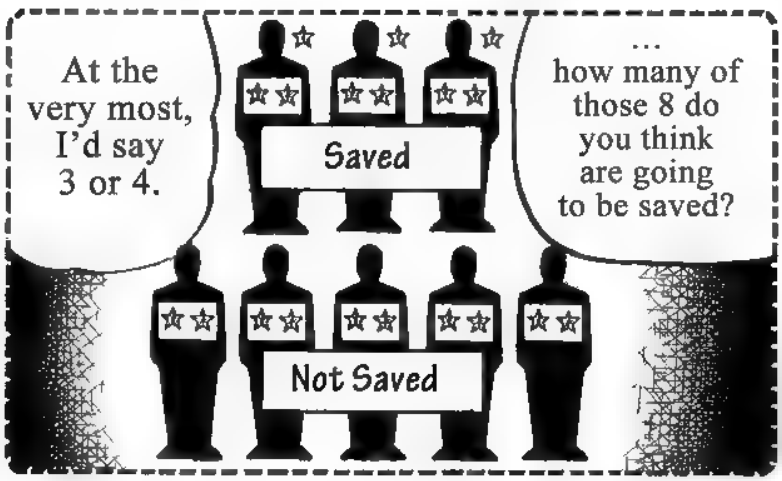

…
instead of risking their lives on a match
…
Which means
…
…some of the guys decided they'd rather suck it up and pay to survive.

…
?
Especially not if they have to get their hands on new cards first.
They don't want to play anymore.

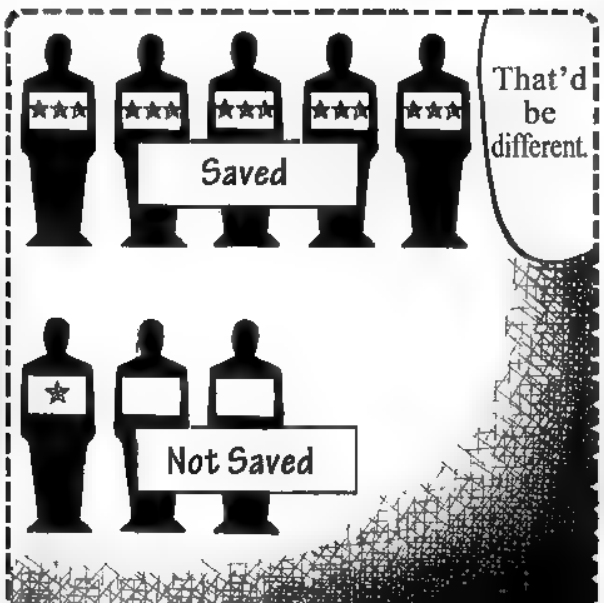
For instance, let's assume the card was a rock…who knows if …
… the fact that it's a rock wasn't sold to somebody else.
… picking up more cards …
… once things come down to the wire …
… is just too dangerous.
You see …
……
Instead of taking in a new card…
… now that it's so risky …
……
… then it would be a guaranteed loss.
If a 3rd party knew about the card …
This is exactly what the organizers want… They're playing right into their hands.
Except……
… it's safer to do nothing …
… and just wait for the auction, like those guys are doing.
That's right …
Into their hands …?


Think about it.
For instance, say there are 8 guys with only 2 stars.
When the stars are auctioned ...


... if they fought ...
But ...


... how many of those 8 do you think are going to be saved?
At the very most, I'd say 3 or 4.
Saved
Not Saved

If they fought, then more of them might be saved ...
In other words ...


That'd be different.
Saved
Not Saved

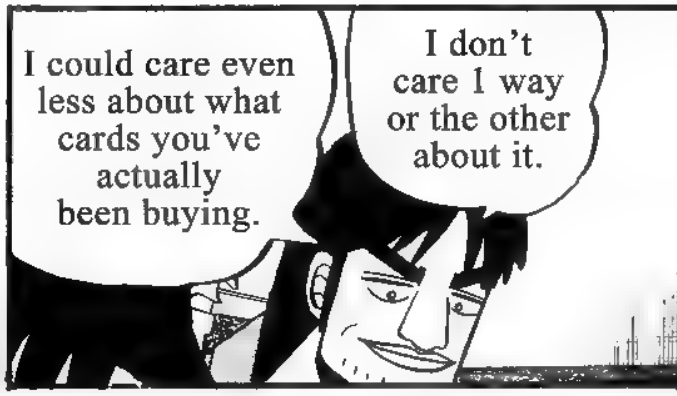
All they want to do is to be saved …
You gotta feel sorry for them …
… but instead they're damning themselves.
Hmph …
…they'll almost certainly have to use all the money they borrowed at the start.
In order to buy 3 stars at the auction …
They won't be saved …
They're on the way to the gallows now …
……
In the end …
They'll be just as in debt as ever.
Who cares if their old debt is wiped out …
Can't they see what's what?
Obviously that will leave them with a whole new debt.
… right into their hands …
They think they're buying insurance, but really they're delivering themselves …
… is seriously flawed.
Their obsession with buying a star in order to survive …

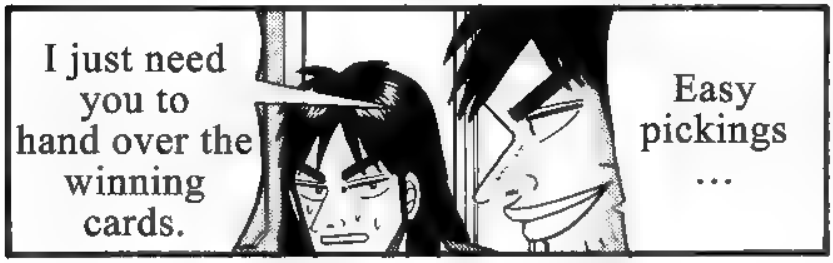
.....
.....
.....
...
the hands of the devils who control this world.
Knock it off ...!
Guys like you, Kaiji-san ...
...some guys here can see what they're really up to.
Of course ...
Hmph ...
Kaiji-san ...
Then spit it out already.
... because you want something, right?
Hmph
You came here ...
You can save your flattery.

You've been buying cards, right …?

Come on now, you don't have to hide it…
Wh-What are you talking about?!

I just want some cards.

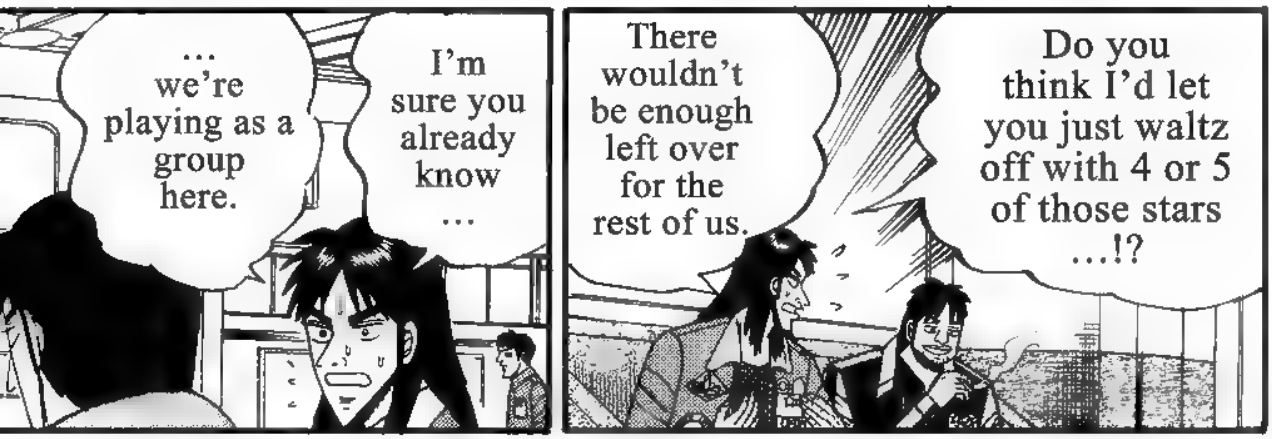

I could care even less about what cards you've actually been buying.
I don't care 1 way or the other about it.


I just need you to hand over the winning cards.
Easy pickings …

There's a few guys I've been keeping an eye on …
… ever since midgame. I know their last cards …

……
… maybe 5 more wins.
Then I'll be good for 4 …

…but half of them have already given up playing and are waiting for the auction …
There's about 40 guys out on the floor now…
That only leaves around 20 guys still fighting.
Get real …!
If everything goes well I can guarantee that you survive too …


… we're playing as a group here.
I'm sure you already know …
There wouldn't be enough left over for the rest of us.
Do you think I'd let you just waltz off with 4 or 5 of those stars …!?

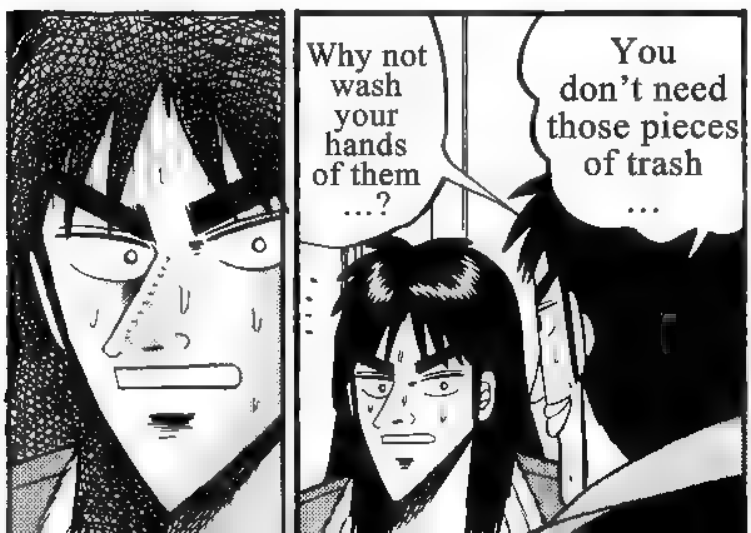
……
You can stick it in your pocket where the other 2 can't find it.
Huh … ?
I'll give you the star in advance.
Kaiji-san …
If there's 4 or 5 less stars for us to take then what are we going to do…!?

Ahh …!
… you'll be saved, 100% guaranteed.
With this star …

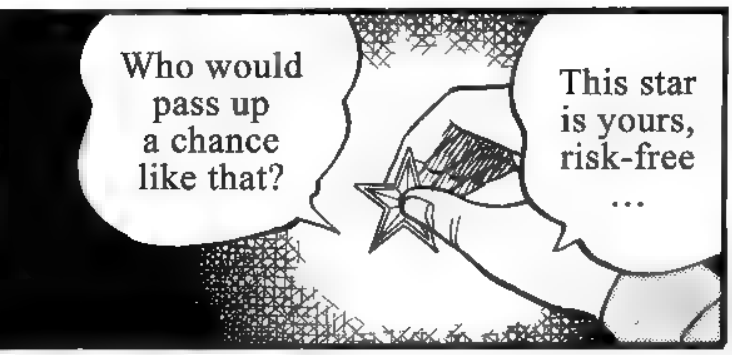
Too much is left to chance.
If your opponents won't play then you're already dead in the water.
How about it…? There's no sure guarantee that in the end the strategy you've chosen will net you enough stars.

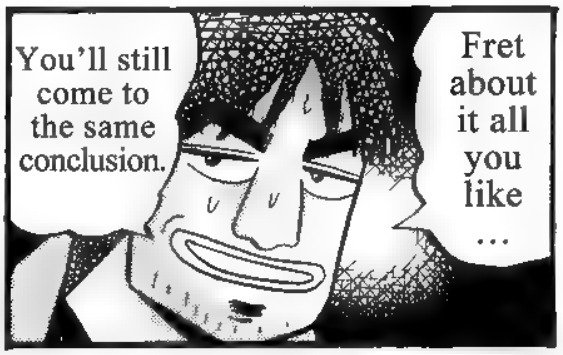
Hmm …?
What about Ando and Furuhata …?
……

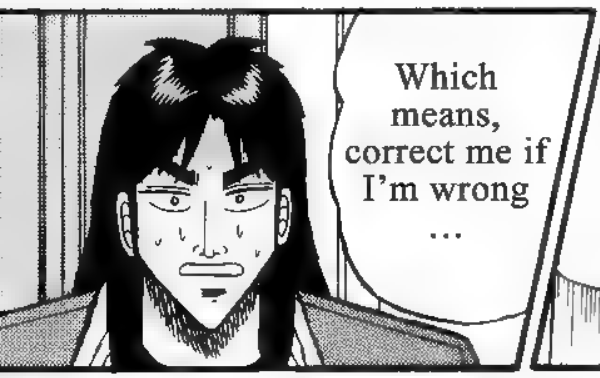
This star …!
But there's a surefire way right here in front of you.
But …


Why not wash your hands of them …?
You don't need those pieces of trash …

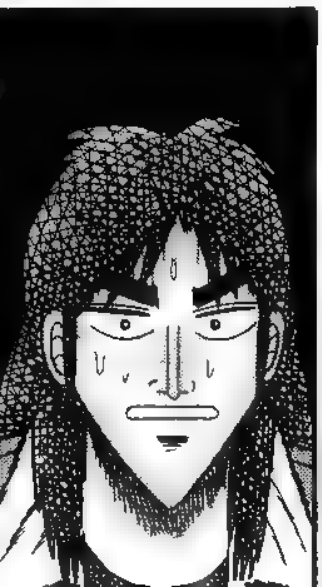
…
Kaiji-san.
It's time you quit acting like such a goody two-shoes …
Not that, again.
How can you say that …!?

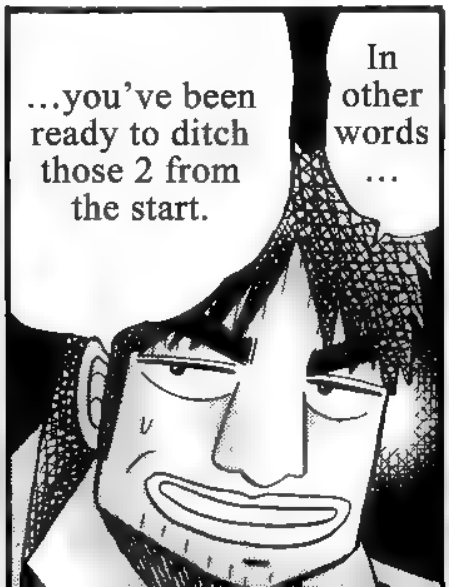

Who would pass up a chance like that?
This star is yours, risk-free …


You'll still come to the same conclusion.
Fret about it all you like …


Which means, correct me if I'm wrong …

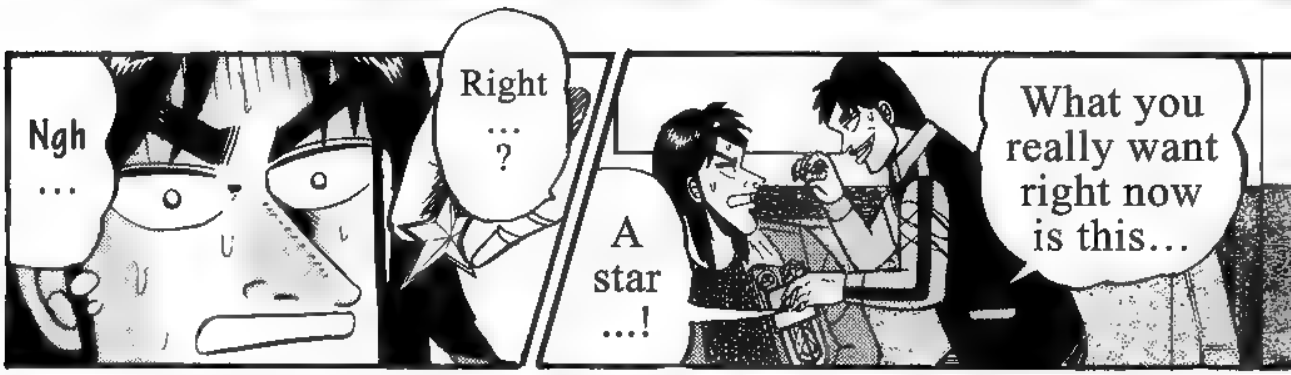
…but you're still holding on to 5 or 6 mil., right?
Face it, you borrowed 10 mil. yen at the start of the night…




…you've been ready to ditch those 2 from the start.
In other words …

…as long as you can get rid of your cards, at the final auction you're the only 1 of the 3 who can still be saved.

Ahh …
You know I'm right, Kaiji-san …
… so quit trying to act …
… so high and mighty !


What you really want right now is this…
A star …!
Right … ?
Ngh …

Ahhh … !

CRASH
Wah ...!
Get lost...!
THUMP
ROLL
Get your hands off them. These are my stars...!
Mine ...!
Eek ...
Ahh ...
ざわ..
Hrm ...
No ...
Ngh ...
No ...

You're lost now, you hypocrite ...

...and you cut it into pieces?

Someone was finally nice enough to throw you a rope...

Ahh ...!

.....

You're going to regret this, just you wait...!

FORCE

End of Chapter 34

What about Ando and Furuhata ...?
Hmm ...?
You don't need those pieces of trash...
SPLASH
SPLASH
Why not wash your hands of them...?
SPLASH
Are you an idiot ...!?
Someone was finally nice enough to throw you a rope and you cut it into pieces?
You're lost now, you hypocrite ...
FAR EA

Chapter 35: Blessings and Curses

Ando... Furuhata ...

.....
SCRUB
SCRUB

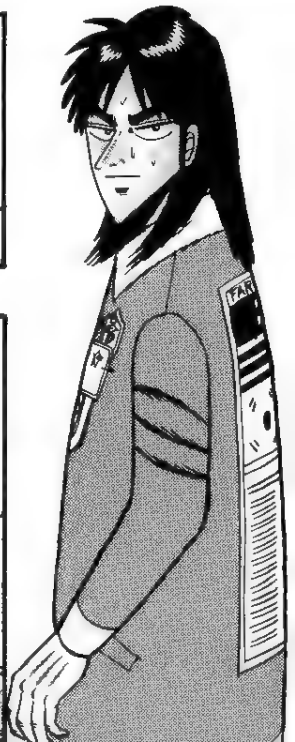
Huh ...?

Don't turn on me...!

We saw you arguing...
Kaiji-san, what's wrong...?

.....
It's nothing ...!

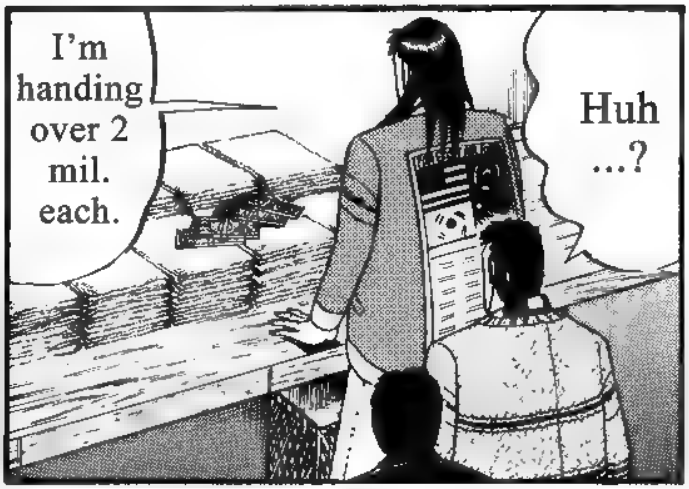
No ...!
Is... Is something wrong ...?



... offers you a sweet deal...
...or get all worked up the moment some hotshot...
...or let someone else in on our plan...
...don't run off and sell your cards ...
If we manage to win our 1st match and you get 3 stars...
Of course ...!
Yeah ...
Got it ...!?
.....
That goes without saying ...!
It does ...!

THWOMP

This way, after we get rid of our cards...
2 mil. isn't enough to buy a star.


I'm handing over 2 mil. each.
Huh ...?

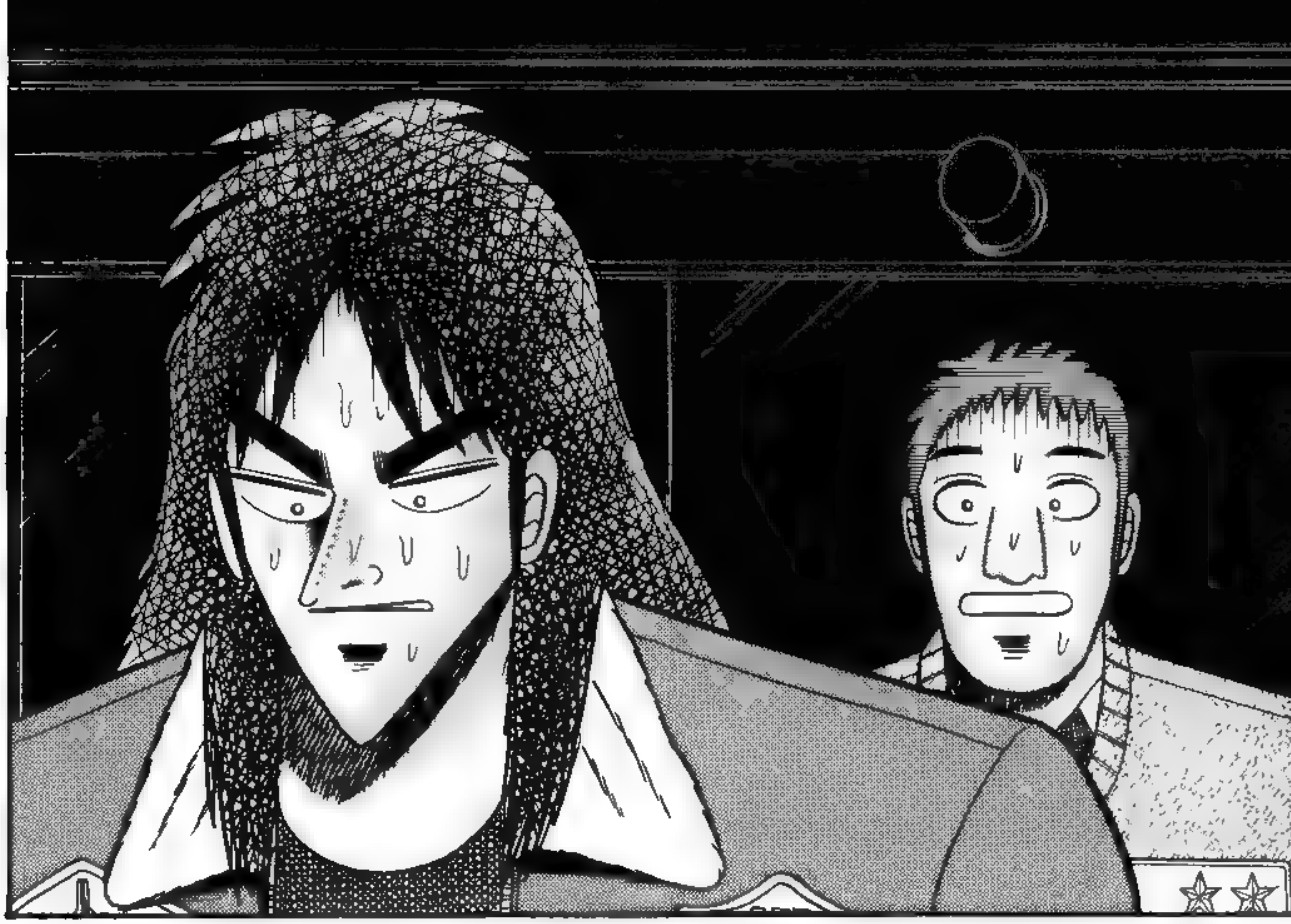
Kaiji-san...
This way we're all in the same boat.

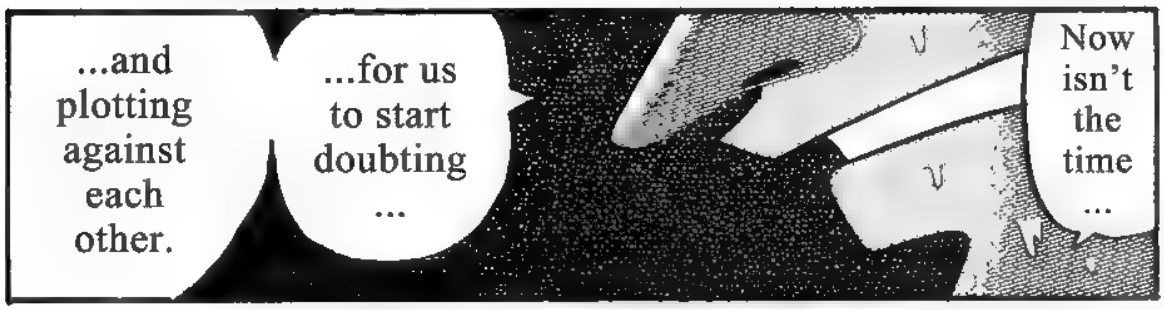
...I can't just use the 6 mil. to buy a star and head upstairs on my own.

Now ...

Yeah ...
Are you sure ...?

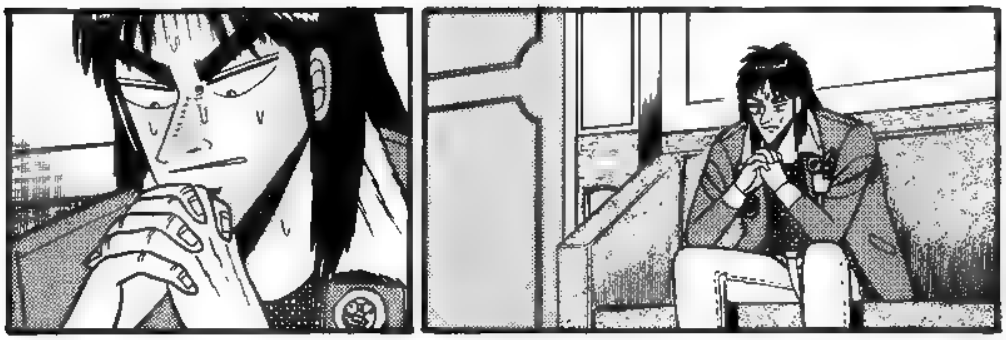
You see ...

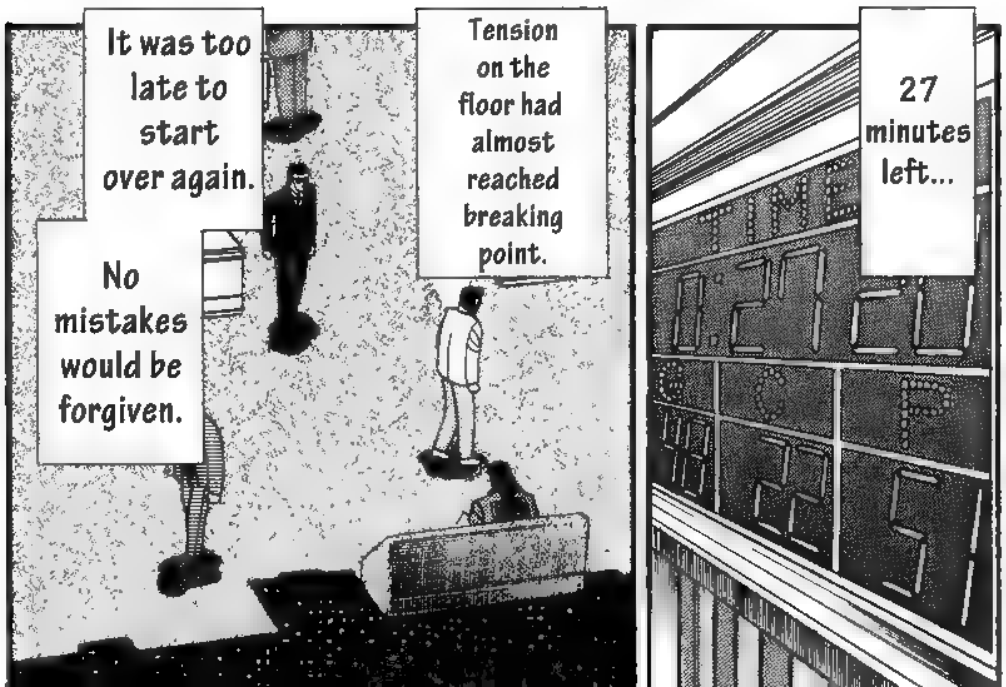



...and plotting against each other.
...for us to start doubting ...
Now isn't the time ...

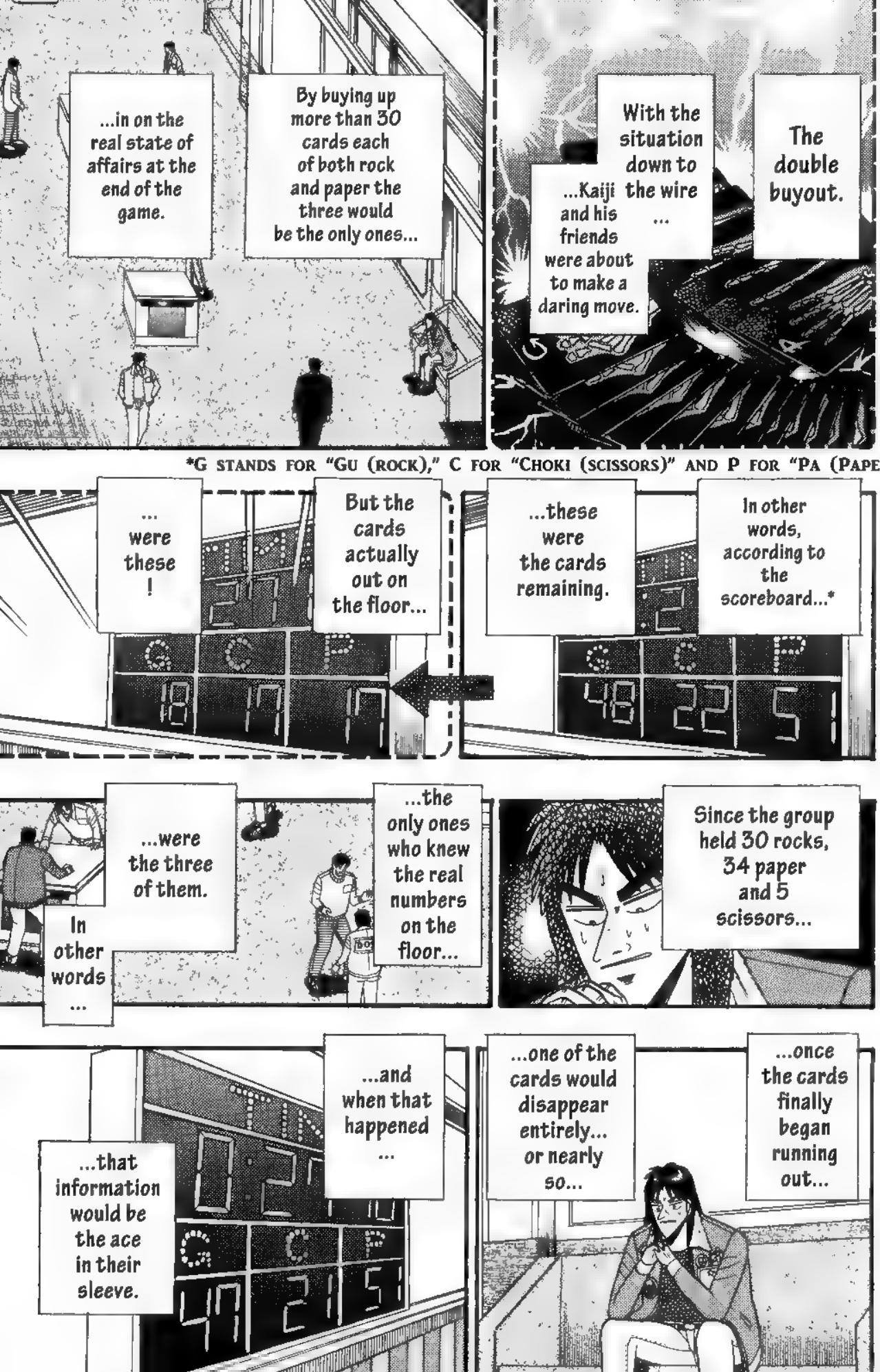
Trust in me too ...!
So the both of you ...
I trust the both of you ...!
...it could cost us our lives!
If the three of us are divided...
EAST AIR FORCE

Kaiji-san...
SNIFF
3 more stars...
.....
Ohh ...
Ohh ...
Wah ...
We're going to make it...!
I know that we're going to make it...
I won't let us rot in here...!
We can do it...
We can do it...
.....



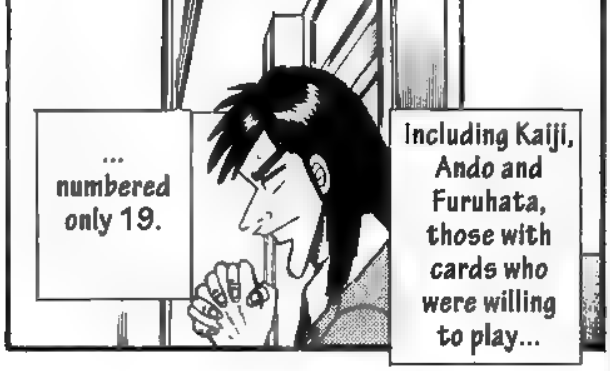

It was too late to start over again.
No mistakes would be forgiven.
Tension on the floor had almost reached breaking point.
27 minutes left...

...just you wait and see!


...in on the real state of affairs at the end of the game.
By buying up more than 30 cards each of both rock and paper the three would be the only ones...
...Kaiji and his friends were about to make a daring move.
With the situation down to the wire ...
The double buyout.
*G STANDS FOR "GU (ROCK)," C FOR "CHOKI (SCISSORS)" AND P FOR "PA (PAPER)."
... were these !
But the cards actually out on the floor...
...these were the cards remaining.
In other words, according to the scoreboard...*
...were the three of them.
In other words ...
...the only ones who knew the real numbers on the floor...
Since the group held 30 rocks, 34 paper and 5 scissors...
...that information would be the ace in their sleeve.
...and when that happened ...
...one of the cards would disappear entirely... or nearly so...
...once the cards finally began running out...

Since only rock and scissors remained ...
...and play all their matches with rock.
...if paper ran out they would use rock ...
They would use whichever card lost to the one which had run out...
A surefire win.
...the matches could end in ties but they couldn't lose.
Their final hope.
That was their plan to survive ...
.....
Only...wait...!
...and believe that their opportunity would come.
They had to wait ...
But first, the situation on the floor would have to turn their way.

Wahh ...!
Eeeekk ...!
Out on the floor ...
...in the corner of their eyes...
...the final battles continued ....
The final battles that divided the debtors into survivors and losers.
This game of Limited Janken began with 103 players...
...but the fates of 62 had already been decided.
44 had headed up the stairs, unharmed ...
...while 18 had gone to the other room...
...which left 41 players still out on the floor.



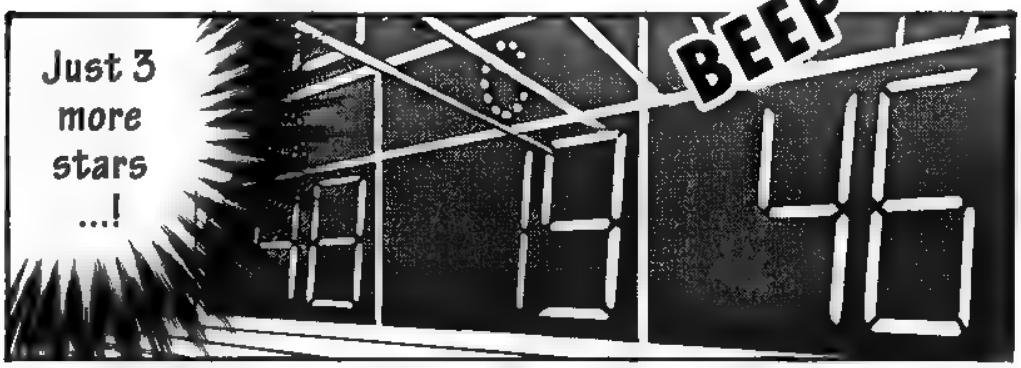
Including Kaiji, Ando and Furuhata, those with cards who were willing to play...

...22 were trusting that they would be able to buy stars in the post-game auction.

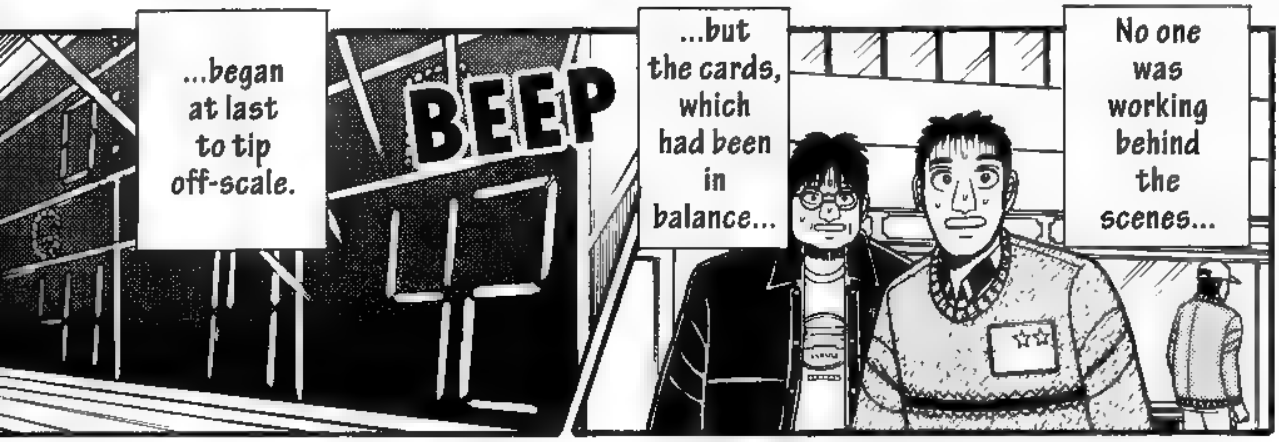
But of those 41 ...

Since they weren't playing, they didn't really count.

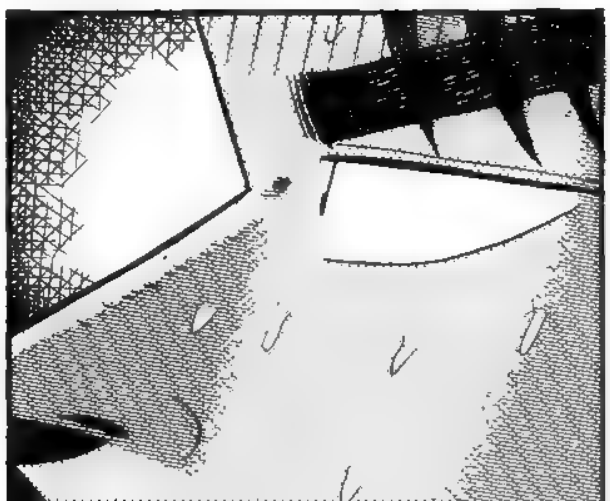
From the group's point of view...



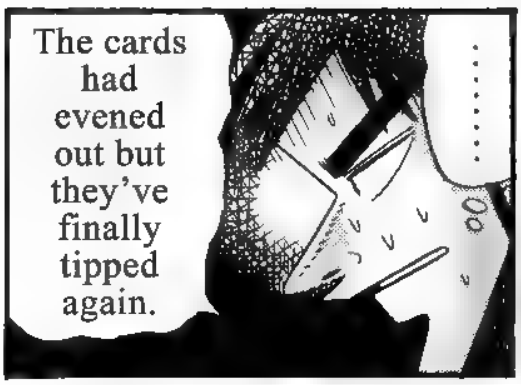
They would have to pinch their stars from these final 16 ...!



A wind which would blow them to safety.



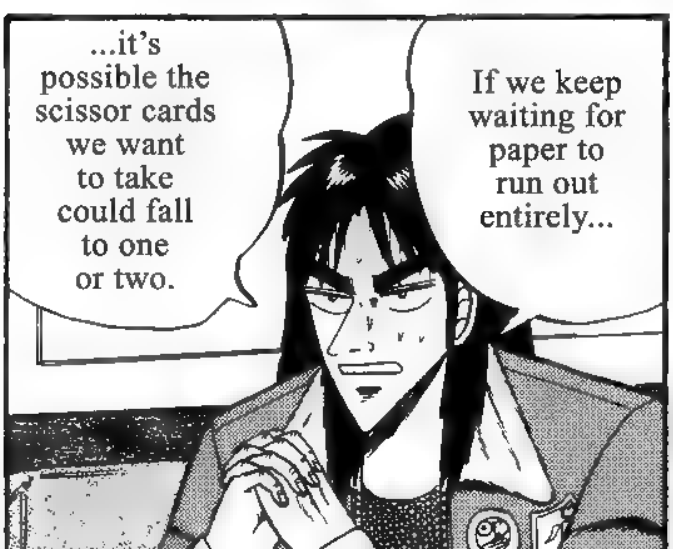
...but the truth was this!
The scoreboard displayed this...


The cards had evened out but they've finally tipped again.
.....

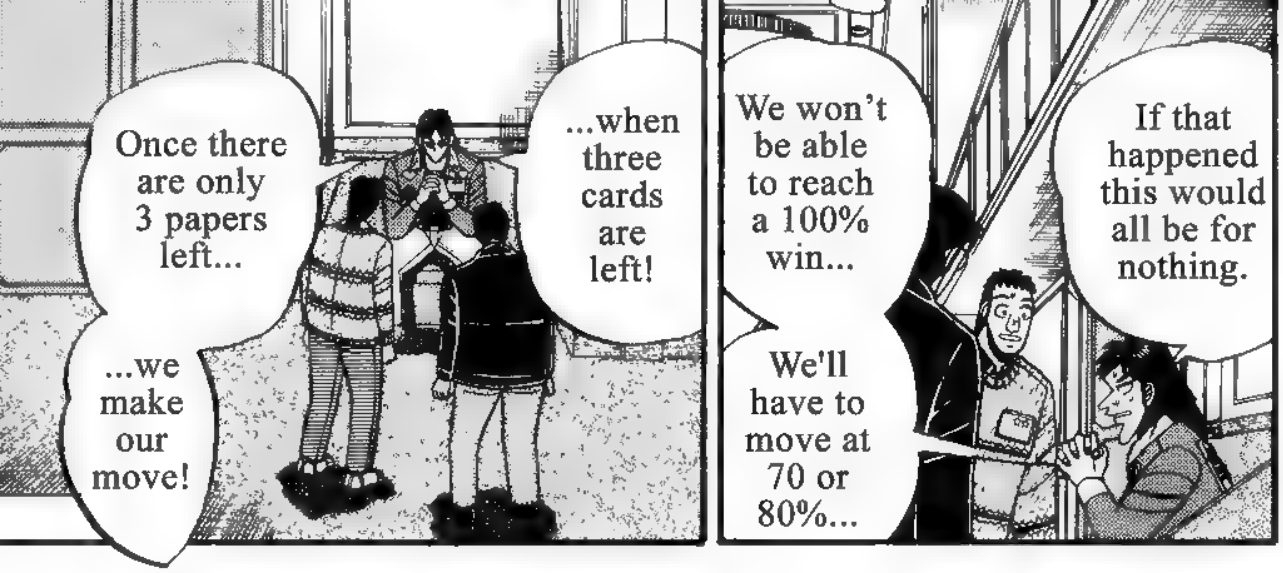
.....
Ahh ...
K-Kaiji -san ...

If we do, then we're through.
Understand ...?
We can't let this chance escape.

There's nothing else left.
This could be the last time they do.

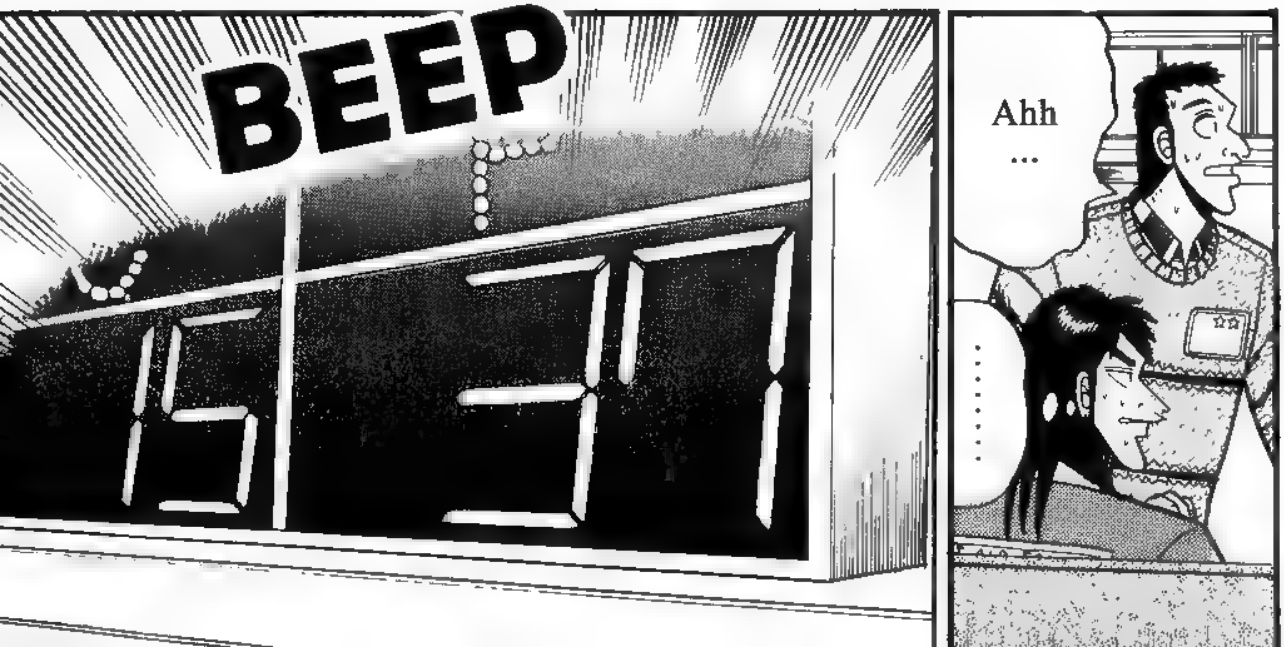

...it's possible the scissor cards we want to take could fall to one or two.
If we keep waiting for paper to run out entirely...

We knew it was too much to hope for from the start.
We can't wait for paper to fall all the way to zero.

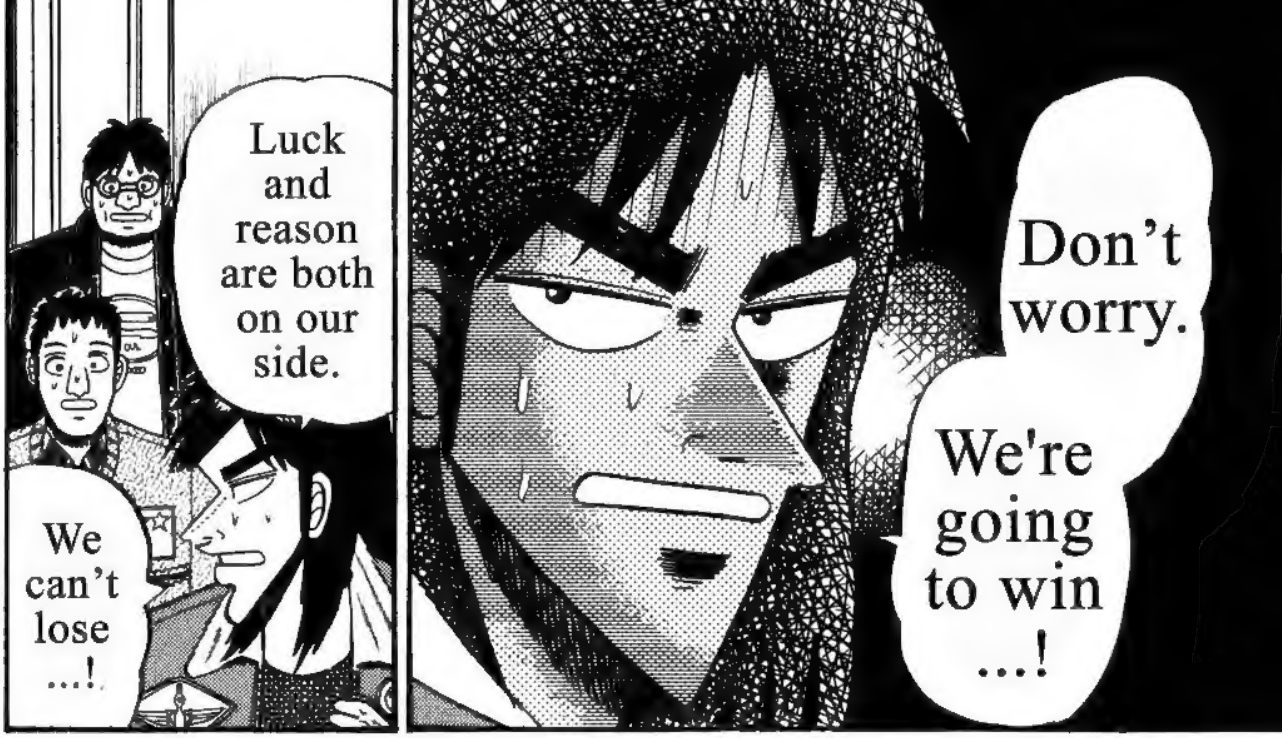

Once there are only 3 papers left...
...we make our move!
...when three cards are left!
We won't be able to reach a 100% win...
We'll have to move at 70 or 80%...
If that happened this would all be for nothing.

Okay ...
Yeah ...
.....
Got it ....!?

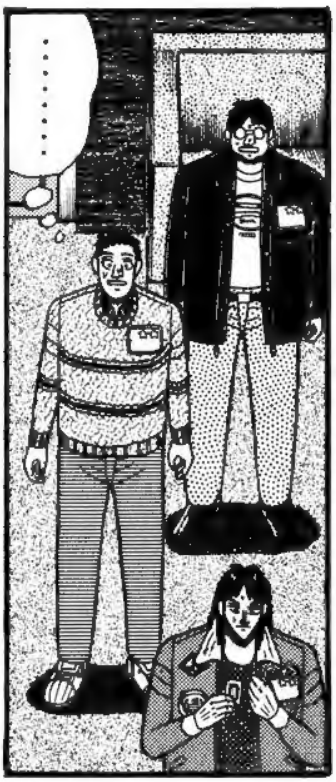
BEEP
There are actually 4 paper cards in play.
K-Kaiji -san ...
BEEP
There are actually 5 paper cards in play.


BEEP
Ahh ...
.....

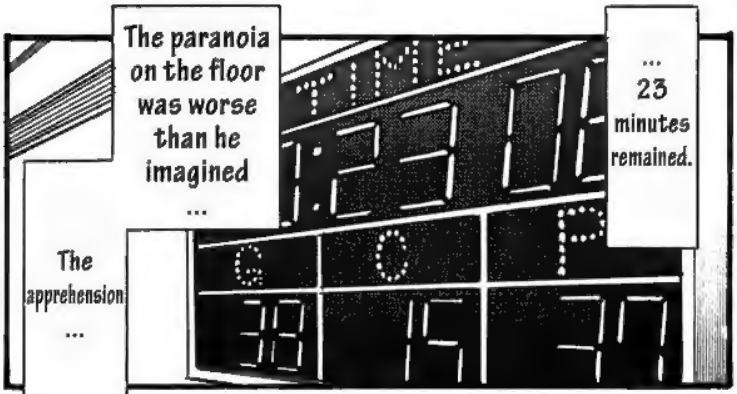
... out on the floor !
0:23
G
38
C
15
P
37
Only 3 paper are left ...
Let's go ...!
This is for it all ...!
Kaiji -san ...!

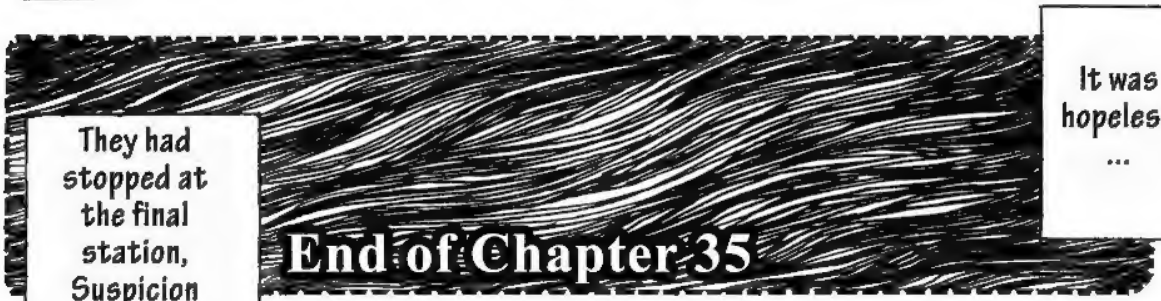

Luck and reason are both on our side.
We can't lose ...!
Don't worry.
We're going to win ...!

SCRAMBLE
However ...


.....

Let's go ...!


The paranoia on the floor was worse than he imagined ...
... 23 minutes remained.
The apprehension ...


It was hopeless ...
They had stopped at the final station, Suspicion and Doubt!
End of Chapter 35

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